

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Bromley

Lake Forest Park, WA 981557454

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Meg Sabatino

San Francisco, CA 98101

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Fortmann

Ferndale, WA 982489810

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kiran Gill

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

virgil ripley

Seattle, WA 981255401

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Nancy Worsham

Spokane, WA 992011602

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Donna Davis

Bellingham, WA 982298975

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Nathan LacQuaye

Vancouver, WA 986633310

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Leslie Saelens

, Washington 98236

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

David Breckette

MAPLE VALLEY, WA 98038

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Denise Radow

Mercer Island, WA 97405

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Richard Nelson

Seattle, WA 981162739

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Sarah Cutler

Blaine, WA 98230

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Roger Delmar

Port Townsend, WA 98368

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Linda Murdock

Seattle, WA 981254049

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Teresa Tomasek

Kingston, WA 983469629

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

James Wiley

Tacoma, WA 98407

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Richard Johnson

Bellingham, WA 98227

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Joan Christensen

Ilwaco, WA 98624

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Robert Blumenthal

Seattle, WA 98115

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Sarah Sanford

Kirkland, WA 98033

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Farley

Spokane, WA 992021821

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Julie Boss

, Washington 98028

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Tricia Nakoma

Seattle, WA 87507

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Melanie Morin

Edmonds, WA 98026

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Cherzan

Battle Ground, WA 98604

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Renee Harris

Bellevue, WA 980085619

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Beth Eisenbeis

Bothell, WA 980127937

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Sam Garbi

Vancouver, WA 986642860

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

David Thompson

Spokane, WA 99217

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Tony Porto

CHIMACUM, WA 98325

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ann Bradshaw

Lake Stevens, WA 982583791

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Rose Marie Gai

Woodinville, WA 98072

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Diane Carlson

Glenwood, WA 986199023

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Guy Purdy

Kenmore, WA 980284637

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Polly Taylor

Olympia, WA 985012302

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Gale Kessler

MERCER ISLAND, WA 98040

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Deborah Schulte

Seattle, WA 981052159

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Gail Tedford

Bremerton, WA 983370100

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Patricia Evans

Everett, WA 982035079

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

John Shattuck

Olympia, WA 985014779

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance to all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Hap Enzi

Walla Walla, WA 99362

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Bell

Seatac, WA 98198-4207

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Robert Long

Seattle, WA 98106

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Angela Swanson

CONCRETE, WA 98237

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Renne Adams

Redmond, WA 98052

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kameron Durnan

Ellensburg, WA 989262242

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

annika bowden

Seattle, WA 981162889

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Victoria Urias

Seattle, WA 98125

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been shitting in our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am fucking outraged to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public will and prepared draft water quality permits that gives Cooke Aquaculture the ability to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout. These must be removed!

I am telling you to get off your worthless bureaucratic ass and realize the importance making a decision for the future of this vital water quality issue. Your agency is going to get sued. There is already litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I demand the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a

different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah Donier

Freeland, WA 982499776

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Eden Teachout

Olympia, WA 985017128

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Adam Udovich

Olympia, WA 985023821

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Adeline Parker

Federal Way, WA 98003

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Oliver

Bainbridge Island, WA 981101710

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Sally Thrall

Seattle, WA 981074103

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jim Bartley

Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Patricia Schroeder

Port Angeles, WA 98363

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Monica Albin

Kenmore, WA 98028

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Karen Kershaw

Seattle, WA 981024549

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Greg Saul

Olympia, WA 985013917

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Adeline Parker

Federal Way, WA 98003

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Sean Townsend

Olga, WA 982799303

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

BARBARA MCKEE

Vancouver, WA 986642548

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Adeline Parker

Federal Way, WA 98003

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Tracy Fitterer

Spokane Valley, WA 992063973

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Diane Moore

Deming, WA 982449304

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Andrea Van Houten

Freeland, WA 982490015

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Percy Hilo

Seattle, WA 98111-3761

"



Arthur Fred Ficarra

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Arthur Ficarra

Seabeck, WA 98380

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Blake Koehn

Tacoma, WA 984076014

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Richard Hernandez

Kirkland, WA 980344482

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Sena Krug

Seattle, WA 981023203

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Maxine Clark

Sekiu, WA 98391

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Victoria Forsberg

Langley, WA 982609217

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Tracy Ouellette

Bow, WA 982329246

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

T Reading

Sultan, WA 982940372

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Robert Bartlett

WENATCHEE, WA 98801

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Samantha Ngy

Kent, WA 98042

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Sally Radford

Tacoma, WA 984094007

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Annette Smith

Gig Harbor, WA 983321046

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Valerie Rapport

Seattle, WA 981125016

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Susan Bigda

Kent, WA 98032-3794

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Don Adair

Spokane, WA 992249671

"

Ron Slosky

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ron Slosky

Seattle, WA 98119

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Steve Hamlin

Shoreline, WA 981552214

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Rene Ray

Gig Harbor, WA 983357102

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Anita Scheunemann

Rochester, WA 985798693

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Linda Prier

Kittitas, WA 989340689

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Greg Lyman

Woodinville, WA 98072

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kari Blom

Shoreline, WA 981552273

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Amy Walter

Seattle, WA 981150271

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

ALBERT WAGNER

Port Ludlow, WA 983659668

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Maureen Wilhelm

Seattle, WA 981090503

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

John Sailer

Port Townsend, WA 98368

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Charlotte McFeely

SEATTLE, WA 98125

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Leon Robert

Seattle, WA 981072125

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Justin and Anne Morahan

, Washington 11111

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jude Green

Bellingham, WA 982252625

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Darius Mitchell

Seattle, WA 981992008

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

PJ Overton

Vancouver, WA 98665

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Charles Landau

Port Townsend, WA 983684841

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Mark Volmut

Olympia, WA 985012415

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Peggy Reynolds

Ferndale, WA 982489819

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Steve Green

Burlington, WA 982333824

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Colleen Lynch

Spokane Valley, WA 992162189

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Godwin

Auburn, WA 98092

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Lin Higley

Mead, WA 99207

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

jerry ellis

Oak Harbor, WA 982772556

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Joe Nichols

Snohomish, WA 98290

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Rose Rohrer

Spokane, WA 992084033

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Somsaron Pheth

Tacoma, WA 984042214

"

Gerry Stamper

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Gerry Stamper

Clarkston, WA 99403

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Dan Schneider

Seattle, WA 981154217

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Pamela Larsen

Camano Island, WA 982826680

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Brandie Deal

Bothell, WA 98021

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Joanie Merritt

Port Angeles, WA 983620330

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Annie Foy

Burien, WA 981661753

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Meredith Baker

Mount Vernon, WA 982739232

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Judy Bluhm

Auburn, WA 980921912

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Susan Shouse

Everett, WA 982012546

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Wanda Myers

Twisp, WA 988569774

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Fred Stone

Everett, WA 982087515

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Mary Sebek

Seattle, WA 981034617

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ted Clark

Spokane Valley, WA 992123216

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Karen Cook

Lacey, WA 985134181

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Robin Hirsch

, Washington 98280

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Laur Mallett

Seattle, WA 981256163

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Linda Watson

Leavenworth, WA 988261231

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Daniele Rubcic

Lynnwood, WA 980875433

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Cheri Hill

White Salmon, WA 986720480

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Barbara Tountas

Lake Forest Park, WA 981551567

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Wollheim

Seattle, WA 981093762

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Kovalcik

Redmond, WA 980538100

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Patrick Gray

Spokane, WA 992031060

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

ro donelson

Ferndale, WA 982489714

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Laura Delmas

Kirkland, WA 98033

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Mary Schreifels

Seattle, WA 981173835

"

Cooke Aquaculture's operations must end.

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Anthony Troutt

Brier, WA 980368410

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Charles Muzio

Seattle, WA 981035220

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Tina Gardner

Oak Harbor, WA 98277

"



End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Don't be stupid. Just say "NO" to Cooke Aquaculture operations in Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state. Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been

paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Townsend

Olympia, WA 985069727

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Tia Hendrix

Orting, WA 983600019

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Seater

Seattle, WA 981461056

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Bhavana Lymworth

Langley, WA 982600459

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Meghan McCutcheon

White Salmon, WA 98672

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Norm Conrad

Mount Vernon, WA 98274

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Holly Taylor

Ellensburg, WA 989269643

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Catherine Craig

Walla Walla, WA 993623310

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Carol Miller

Seattle, WA 98105

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

CJ Joyce

Vancouver, WA 98661

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Wendy Howard

Seattle, WA 98146-1950

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

John Hunter

Langley, WA 98260

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Susan Finkel

Seattle, WA 981193572

"

Ellen Kendall

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ellen Kendall

Seattle, WA 98125

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jill Stokes

Spokane, WA 992232203

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Robert Seaman

Lynden, WA 982649402

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

JoAnn Polley

Poulsbo, WA 983708739

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Mazuca

Seattle, WA 981162515

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Daniel Grimley

Seattle, WA 981191433

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Nancy Hayden

Spokane, WA 99217

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Laureen France

Seattle, WA 981991652

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Vivian Korneliussen

Shoreline, WA 981334809

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Purtill

Bellingham, WA 982256706

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Harolynne Bobis

Langley, WA 982608664

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ximena McIntosh

Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Christine Klunder

Bellingham, WA 982254844

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Dianne Hyer

Vashon, WA 980706563

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Robert Jamieson PhD

Edmonds, WA 98020

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Merriann Bell

Lyle, WA 986359509

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

bob rodgers

Brush Prairie, WA 986063406

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely yours,

Gerald Thompson

Everett, WA 98203

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

James Haywood

North Bend, WA 980459644

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Katherine Wright

Freeland, WA 982491106

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Barbara Sim

Seattle, WA 98105

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Constance Knudsen

Seattle, WA 981172704

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Fairchild

Seattle, WA 98118

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Susanne Weil

Onalaska, WA 985700787

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Janis Willett

Seattle, WA 981075634

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Carlann Copps

Anacortes, WA 982211617

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Christopher Young

University Place, WA 98466

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Cindi Lund

Lopez Island, WA 982618412

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

terrie pohl

Liberty Lake, WA 99019

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Sara Hart

, WA 98105-2525

"

End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long.

I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue.

There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species.

Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology.

In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound.

First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures).

Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife."<sup>2</sup>

Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent).

Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be

met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from our waters entirely.

Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

I live in the area. I need wild caught salmon for health reasons.

Sincerely,

Gloria McClintock

Mount Vernon, WA 98274

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Laura Reigel

Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Allen Gates

Spokane, WA 992051626

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Carla Fisher

Edmonds, WA 98026

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Diana Meyers

Seattle, WA 981073466

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Silvia De Los Santos

Seabeck, WA 983809449

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Bob Gillespie

Mount Vernon, WA WA

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jill Ungar

Ellensburg, WA 989269127

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Carey Durgin

Seattle, WA 981062109

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Celia Martin

Poulsbo, WA 983708046

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Daniel Brant

Port Townsend, WA 983686417

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

SUSAN DENIKE

Lacey, WA 985033503

"

Carole Hiatt

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Carole Hiatt

Wenatchee, WA 98801

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Christine Mirkhani

Marysville, WA 982708874

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kristin Otto

Normandy Park, WA 981663925

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Stuart Mork

Seattle, WA 981174642

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications. Remember, you are the Environmental Protection Agency. Time to start living up to your name.

Sincerely,

Susan Thiel

Spanaway, WA 983877630

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Dawn Wojciechowski

Kirkland, WA 980341006

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Linda Ball

, Washington 99019

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Julie A Simpson

Tahuya, WA 98588

"

End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

No one should be eating farmed fish!

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a

different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

George Maupin

Kingston, WA 983468002

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Julie Hoerner

Tacoma, WA 984074222

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

James Giles

Quilcene, WA 983760640

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

erica money

Seattle, WA 981033107

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Blanche Hill

Normandy Park, WA 981663872

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Julia N Allen PhD DVM

Edmonds, WA 980202903

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Karen Gilmore

Vancouver, WA 986646414

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Selim Uzuner

Carnation, WA 980145800

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kim Mack

Shelton, WA 985847833

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Amielle Moreno

Seattle, WA 981054738

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Art Bogie

Anacortes, WA 982214484

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Sandra L. Herndon

Olympia, WA 985063447

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Russ Bradford

Orting, WA 98360

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Megan DeSantis

Woodinville, WA 980729346

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Feuerstein

Mercer Island, WA 983709214

"

WA

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Maria Batayola

Bellevue, WA 98006

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Howard Mizuta DDS

Seattle, WA 981362036

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Gail Buchanan

Anacortes, WA 982218543

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Paul Bakke

Olympia, WA 98501

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Craig Britton

Port Townsend, WA 983686610

"

Valarie Matinjussi

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Valarie Matinjussi

Bellingham, WA 98225

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Deborah Francis

Oak Harbor, WA 982779630

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Susan McRae

Olympia, WA 985063382

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Peter Rimbos

Maple Valley, WA 980388926

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

John Burrows

Spokane, WA 99201

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Cindy Hart

Oak Harbor, WA 982774816

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Beverly Gilyeart

Everett, WA 982084603

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Veronika Coleman

Walla Walla, WA 993624129

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

J Chambers

Seattle, WA 98103

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Lauren Ranz

Bellingham, WA 982298912

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Carl Golden

Woodinville, WA 980724643

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Inga Rouches

Fall City, WA 980249625

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Will Silva

Bellingham, WA 98225

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Carol Reed-Jones

Bellingham, WA 98229

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Alice Gray

Port Orchard, WA 983660797

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Fran Holme

Snohomish, WA 98296

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Brock Smith

Vashon, WA 98070

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

PATRICIA SIMON

Seattle, WA 981153244

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

David Berger

Lyle, WA 98635

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Scott Peck

Bainbridge Island, WA 981103908

"

Joan Reberger

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

I live in western Washington on Camano Island. Like most of the people in the Puget Sound area, I value the natural beauty here very highly and want to see a return of salmon and orca. Cooke's operations have already failed badly and are pushing us in the wrong direction.

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Joan Reberger

Camano Island, WA 982827383

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Francis Schwinger

Seattle, WA 981461807

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Charlie Wallblom

Spokane, WA 992014051

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Diane McCutcheon

Seattle, WA 98125

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Den Evans

Port Angeles, WA 98362

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Marlene Hayden

Tacoma, WA 984480402

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

David Grelock-Yusem

Bainbridge Island, WA 981103181

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Donna Leavitt

Edmonds, WA 98026-8214

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Eiger

Friday Harbor, WA 982506740

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Vikki Voss

Shelton, WA 985849403

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Hans Purdom

Chehalis, WA 985323127

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Neal Umphred

Redmond, WA 98052

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Peter Crowley

Olympia, WA 985013584

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Anne Almgren

Lynnwood, WA 98087

"

WINIFRED DAISLEY

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

WINIFRED DAISLEY

Spokane, WA 99202

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

C. David Cook

Seattle, WA 981081505

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Cristina Wenzl

Lynnwood, WA 980872126

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Norman Husser

Shoreline, WA 981556451

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Beth Whitfieldhenry

Auburn, WA 980928605

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Denee Scribner

Nine Mile Falls, WA 99026

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Penelope Johansen

Montesano, WA 985633411

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Bryan Bell

Port Angeles, WA 983627938

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Lemoine

Seattle, WA 981224627

"

Mandy WeeksGreen

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Mandy Weeks-Green

Olympia, WA 985128518

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Terry Sullivan

Vashon, WA 980706467

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Larry Allen

, Washington 98012

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Linda Ball

Liberty Lake, WA 990197574

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Holly Green

Anacortes, WA 982218943

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Laura Goldberg

Arlington, WA 982238677

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Ostle

Olga, WA 982790218

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kate Blessing

Seattle, WA 98116

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Steve Williams

Tacoma, WA 984068210

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Diana Nielsen

Edmonds, WA 980202948

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Cindy Bouquet

Marysville, WA 98271

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Cindy Bouquet

Marysville, WA 98271

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Nancy Enz Lill

Spokane, WA 99201

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Larsen

Seattle, WA 981222923

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Wardlow

SEQUIM, WA 98382

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Scott Bishop

Olympia, WA 985024734

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Aileen Taylor

Spokane Valley, WA 992160485

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Lemoine Radford

Sammamish, WA 98075

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Lisa Halpern

Seattle, WA 981182558

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Peter Karakondis

Port Angeles, WA 983626521

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Myrna Eden

Seattle, WA 98109

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Myrna Eden

Seattle, WA 981092511

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Dodd Johnson

Vashon, WA 98070

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Karla Mason-Cohen

Richland, WA 993527508

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

THOMAS JOHNSON

Olympia, WA 98512

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

P Elle

Poulsbo, WA 983708607

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Benard

Olympia, WA 98516

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

michael leff

Bellevue, WA 980042820

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Joan Peter

Gig Harbor, WA 983355906

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Oshikawa

Edmonds, WA 980204117

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Carol Bennett-Bertrand

Tacoma, WA 98422

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Thom Lufkin

Olympia, WA 985012928

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

D Hubenthal

Spokane, WA 992057334

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Megan Graves

Seattle, WA 981255668

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Rich Tomlinson

Seattle, WA 98117

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Denise Echelbarger

Camano Island, WA 982827028

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Judith Landy

Mt Vernon, WA 98273

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Linda Lindsay

Langley, WA 982600112

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Julie Roe

Sequim, WA 983829543

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Pamela Rains

Issaquah, WA 980296272

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Robert Hoffmann

Eastsound, WA 982459326

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Edith Kusnic

Seattle, WA 981256643

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Mr. Shelley Dahlgren, PhD

Sammamish, WA 980297520

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Veda Onori

Seattle, WA 981081406

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Christian Miller

Washougal, WA 986717432

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Sally Martine

Bremerton, WA 98337

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ruth King

Lacey, WA 985033025

"

Please End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

It has been substantiated that industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon. I am disappointed to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I urge you to please wait to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Please place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Please also revisit your conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Please reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

I urge you to please heed caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state. Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from our waters entirely.

Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Pamela K Tetarenko

Pullman, WA 99163

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Luke Magnotto

Bainbridge Island, WA 981102943

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Carol Royer

Lacey, WA 985032547

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Bartlett

Anacortes, WA 98221

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Claire Berkwitt

Issaquah, WA 980297206

"

End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout. ANOTHER TRUMP OVERTURN THAT DOES NOT RESPECT THE SCIENCE.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." ONCE INVASION HAPPENS IT CANNOT BE REVERSED AND SO THERE SHOULD BE NO SHORTCUTS IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS. Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state. Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been

paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The ONLY way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters. DO NOT TURN A BLIND EYE TO THESE CONSIDERATIONS THAT WILL NEVER BE IRREVERSABLE.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications. PROFITS WILL NEVER BE AN ACCEPTABLE OUTCOME OVER THE PLANET HEALTH WE ALL DEPEND ON.

Sincerely,

Gail Barton

Naches, WA 989379419

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Tim Durnell

Rice, WA 991679745

"



End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny

Please protect our marine life and don't allow the bypass for Cooke's operations phase out by 2022.

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a

different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Wendy Jarvis

Bellevue, WA 980046314

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Philip Conrad

Bainbridge Island, WA 981106202

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Katherine Schettler

Leavenworth, WA 988269426

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Fred Ervin

Bonney Lake, WA 983916160

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

JT Guthrie

Edmonds, WA 980265703

"

End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

The tides in Puget Sound move the water back & forth... which does dilute the fecal output from these pens. But it doesn't really remove that output. It becomes a plume, like we saw from the ASARCO smelter in Tacoma, where there are tracks of the deposits of poisonous elements that remain in the soil for decades.. maybe forever.

So there are plumes in both directions from these net pens.

It's kind of like having cancerous polyps in the colon... but with the added problem that "traffic" past those polyps will be going BOTH WAYS, unlike the "traffic" inside a colon.

We would be remiss if we only tried to control the outfall/output from these net pens, instead of simply removing them entirely from the Sound.

On another issue, the idea of feeding little fish to make these larger (& seemingly more valuable) fish, when the small fish is an excellent human food in its own right, is wasteful... and only makes "economic sense" by virtue of ad campaigns to "sell" salmon & steelhead as "superior & desirable" food.

Get rid of these net pens! If people want to raise salmon & trout for food, then it should be done AWAY from the Sound... if at all... like hatcheries.

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout. THIS IS RIDICULOUS, bordering on the CRIMINAL.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with CLOSURES, AND PEN REMOVAL.

Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any

proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities  
HAVE NO PLACE in our waters! ^..^

Sincerely,

John Browne

Vashon, WA 98070"

Dave Schettler

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Dave Schettler

, 98826

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

clayton murray

Seattle, WA 981338717

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Michael Hedt

Burley, WA 98322

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Eugenia Haggin

Bellevue, WA 98008

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Claire Sagen

Bellevue, WA 980055164

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Dean Webb

Seattle, WA 981991154

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

mia heavyrunner

Port Orchard, WA 98366-8929

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Debi Grotzinger

Vancouver, WA 98682

"

Carole Henry, MSW

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Carole Henry, MSW

Seabeck, WA 98380

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

C Jackson

Tukwila, WA 98168

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

If all of this is true (I am not a marine biologist nor able to independently confirm all of these allegations), I implore you to do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications. Their history of polluting our shared waters and the impact that has had on native species is enough to truly research what is best for our Puget Sound.

Sincerely,

David Mayer

Olympia, WA 985024930

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am dismayed that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

Please wait to reach a decision on the water quality permits. Litigation is pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

In addition, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

Please exercise extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state. Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our

environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Christie Hedman

Seattle, WA 98121

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Aliza Winship-Freyer

Seattle, WA 981156703

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Lauren Tolle-Bulley

Puyallup, WA 983744551

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Marquam Krantz

Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Israel

Rainier, WA 985769404

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Russell Peterson

Everett, WA 982014271

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Elaine Mahony

Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jim van Zee

Seattle, WA 98105

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Nancy Mattson

Seattle, WA 981164915

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Patricia Wilson

Belfair, WA 98528

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jean Fee

Seattle, WA 981074345

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

DJ Blanchard

Port Angeles, WA 983627185

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Warren Kronenberg

Olympia, WA 985023548

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Bogar

Normandy Park, WA 981481728

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jeffery McConaughy

Bellingham, WA 982257237

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Michael Lampi

Bellevue, WA 980085516

"

End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Farming fish is not a bad idea. We're just doing it in a way that creates a vast number of environmental costs so a few people can make a profit. That's not a business model we should encourage.

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been

paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

James Bracher

Kirkland, WA 98033

"

David Eden

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

David Eden

Lacey, WA 98503

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Darlene Baker

Sammamish, WA 98075

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jeff Freels

Lacey, WA 985036927

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Corinne Salcedo

Anacortes, WA 98221

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

MK Bryan

Bothell, WA 98021

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jessica David

Sumas, WA 982952226

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Dowson

Mill Creek, WA 980124817

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Donna Redemer

Snoqualmie, WA 980659675

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Doris Holdaway

Spokane, WA 992237609

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Russ Thomas

Kirkland, WA 980334759

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Sharon Fasnacht

Olympia, WA 98512

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

C. DeMaris

Olympia, WA 98507

"

End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

ENOUGH of THIS!!!

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a

different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

THANK YOU!!!!!!!

Sincerely,

j, eggars

Addy, WA 991019712

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Andrew Rosenthal

Seattle, WA 981153244

"



Ursula Mass

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ursula Mass

La Conner, WA 98257

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jessica Zickefoose

Olympia, WA 985022751

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

LARA LORENZ

Seattle, WA 981173528

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ying Cooper

Bellevue, WA 980046877

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Roger Nystrom

Edmonds, WA 980263515

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Wendy Bowman

Lacey, WA 985033694

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Analeigh Smith

Seattle, WA 98055

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Peter Mastenbroek

Kirkland, WA 98033

"



End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Farmed Atlantic salmon, don't buy it, don't grow it!

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a

different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

James Day

Lyle, WA 986359416

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Gindt

Yakima, WA 989025091

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Clavet

University Place, WA 98466

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Cole Grabow

Seattle, WA 981094995

"



Laurette Culbert

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Laurette Culbert

Seattle, WA 98107

"

WA

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Doug Lind

Port Townsend, WA 98368

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Paula Bennett

Seattle, WA 981254139

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

ray foster

Bellevue, WA 980082101

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jerry Kessinger

Lynnwood, WA 98087

"

Please End Cooke Aquaculture's operations!

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steel head trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to Please revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steel head, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steel head trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Please End Cooke Aquaculture's operations!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Barbara DelGiudice

Hoquiam, WA 98550

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Susan Barron

Washington, WA NE37 1AB

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

susan Betourne

Mukilteo, WA 98275

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Darrell Jones

Port Townsend, WA 983680004

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ruthann McVicker

, WA 98282

"

End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

While capitalism is literally baking the planet, industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state. Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our

coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Dan DiLeva

Seattle, WA 981450343

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Joanne Jensen

Spokane, WA 992043306

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Janice Jack

Bainbridge Island, WA 981104250

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Holger Mathews

Seattle, WA 981342135

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

David Berlow

Seattle, WA 981337449

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Janet Wynne

Bellingham, WA 98229

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Lynne Roberson

Port Angeles, WA 983639776

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Mary Oakland

Edmonds, WA 980202928

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Konstan Stewart

Vancouver, WA 986614915

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Elaine Packard

Seattle, WA 981226316

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Millner

Vancouver, WA 986851256

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Andrea Roelen

Woodinville, WA 980728655

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Monprode

Spokane, WA 992237120

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Baxter

Seattle, WA 981993549

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Lynn Bamberger

Everett, WA 982042722

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Shirley Graves

Lake Tapps, WA 983916232

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Susan Olson

Shoreline, WA 98087

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Linda Rossi

Auburn, WA 98002

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

William Dudley

Port Townsend, WA 98368

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Stephen Humphrey Pacios

Kennewick, WA 99336

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Michael Tomazic

Kirkland, WA 98034

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Barbara Davidson

Bellingham, WA 982256339

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Robb Mottl

North Bend, WA 980459272

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Shannon Lewis

Puyallup, WA 98374

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Nena Gay

Snohomish, WA 982909276

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Claudia Lee Miller

Oroville, WA 988449329

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jean Irving

Trout Lake, WA 986500236

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Lee

Lacey, WA 985032164

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Coral Shaffer

Seattle, WA 981156622

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

keyth mallam

Tacoma, WA 984074723

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

katie austin

Monroe, WA 98272

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

AIDA Bound

Wenatchee, WA 98801

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Linda Feletar

Vancouver, WA 98664

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Natrass

Yelm, WA 985972430

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

I remain stunned that Cooke Aquaculture was ever allowed to exist in Washington state! Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state. Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our

coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ellen zarter

Bellevue, WA 980083323

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

PETER SEIDMAN

Olympia, WA 985162376

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Philip Reimer

Maple Valley, WA 980388973

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Lyle Wirtanen

Walla Walla, WA 993629232

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

ES Johnston

Seattle, WA 981994501

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Matthew Hobson

Puyallup, WA 983749764

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kristin Rivas

Seattle, WA 981182181

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

David Shively

Snohomish, WA 982968245

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Glen Anderson

Lacey, WA 98503

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jessica Schiffman

Seattle, WA 981034613

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Timothy Boone

Seattle, WA 981255613

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Gordon Radovich

Bremerton, WA 98312

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ian Jezorek

Bingen, WA 986059131

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Sanja Futterman

Seattle, WA 981152331

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in the Puget Sound.

As a constituent, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state. Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species" "even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions, although well-intended, are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jackson Ogden

Moscow, ID 83843

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Del E Domke ~

Bellevue, WA 98008-2711

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Bud Hansen

, Washington 98229

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Candace Mast

Raymond, WA 985779650

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ryan Welch

Kenmore, WA 980283912

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Barbara Gregory

Seattle, WA 981153636

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Roberta Klein

Issaquah, WA 98027-0130

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

David Baine

Federal Way, WA 98023

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Bruce Horowitz

Bellingham, WA 98225

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Chloe Key

Tacoma, WA 984084246

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

DeLorse Lovelady

Kenmore, WA 980287945

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Henry Graves

Newport, WA 991569317

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Amy Osborne

Vancouver, WA 986825202

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Gregory Peters

Seattle, WA 98146

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

jesslyn howgate

Seattle, WA 981783940

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Anna Power

Seattle, WA 981156742

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ernetta Skerlec

Lakewood, WA 984992345

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Leslie Quenell

Lopez Island, WA 982618140

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

d robinson

Curlew, WA 99118

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Broehe Karpenko

Seattle, WA 981256402

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Cole Mumper

Oak Harbor, WA 982778004

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Joel Konikow

Mercer Island, WA 98040

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ken Mincin

Redmond, WA 980522605

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Nick Szumlas

Seattle, WA 981163324

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Mary Guard

Friday Harbor, WA 98250

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Stanley Willard

Seattle, WA 98125

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Zimmermann

Lynnwood, WA 980373891

"

End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon horribly for far too long. I am distraught--and very angry--to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to stress the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There currently is litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species.

Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will affect the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all affected local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

I also request that the Department of Ecology revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect on water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, with regard to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met promptly with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans also must be carefully considered in this permit process. We absolutely cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In summary, I urge Ecology to use extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, since they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state. Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been a paramount problem with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated simply by

raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the multiple harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have absolutely no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Bobette Jones

Seattle, WA 981156655

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Asko Hamalainen

Bellingham, WA 982257430

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

P R

Sequim, WA 983824311

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Lorrie Eaton

Lacey, WA 985033465

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Sosin

Seattle, WA 981361905

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Roger Schiltz

Lacey, WA 98503

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Mintz Kavas

Lynnwood, WA 980876057

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Linda Wasserman

Tacoma, WA 98406

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Joel Flank

Seattle, WA 981072926

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Beverly Crocker

Seattle, WA 981052202

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Michelle Ryan

Shelton, WA 985841120

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Laurie Slater

Bellevue, WA 98004-6717

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Romell Reed

Kenmore, WA 980280511

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Rose Fanger

Spokane, WA 992052766

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Judy Palmer

Tonasket, WA 988550705

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Amanda Sloss

Pateros, WA 988469612

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

We must work with our ecosystems and keep them healthy for native species, not be polluting practices of companies that destroy our natural habitats and native species.

Sincerely,

Angie Dixon

Clinton, WA 982369622

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

David Sugarman

Olympia, WA 985169536

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jude Waller

Tukwila, WA 981882444

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Norman Baker

Sequim, WA 98382

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Virginia Paulsen

Shoreline, WA 98155

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Taylor

Port Townsend, WA 98368

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Gary MacDonald

Lummi Island, WA 982628630

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ingeborg Overby

Seattle, WA 98125

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Nando Ab

Des Moines, WA 981987570

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Helen Gilchrist

Olympia, WA 985122420

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Abigail Fanestil

Sequim, WA 983823788

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Lyndee Cunningham

Camas, WA 986071266

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

David Jessup

Port Angeles, WA 98362

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jeannine Lish

Marysville, WA 982714723

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ben Moore

Mountlake Terrace, WA 980435648

"



Jeanene LaVonne Lorey

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jeanene Lorey

Bothell, WA 98021-9242

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kathryn DeWees

Tacoma, WA 984053325

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Gerard Hughes

Spokane, WA 992053710

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kergan Street

Seattle, WA 981447001

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Glenna Johnson

Redmond, WA 980524677

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Anita Montgomery

Olympia, WA 985128515

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Marlene Clark

Olympia, WA 98506

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jenny England

Bellingham, WA 982292574

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

julie palumbo

Port Orchard, WA 983665234

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Self

BELLINGHAM, WA 98225

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Lina Downes

Friday Harbor, WA 98250

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Deller

Bellevue, WA 98006

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Patricia Coffey

Langley, WA 982608222

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kathy Wilson

Port Ludlow, WA 983659775

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jerry Wheeler

Tukwila, WA 98168

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Margaret Mills

Deer Harbor, WA 982430191

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jill Blaisdell

Bellingham, WA 982298911

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

MARY KROHNER

GIG HARBOR, WA 98332

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Nancy Jacobs

Bellevue, WA 980051210

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ronald Ramey

Everett, WA 98203

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Michael Shurgot

Seattle, WA 981157243

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

betty jo costanzo

Bothell, WA 980112270

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

George Morgan

Washougal, WA 986717283

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ron Beckham

Yelm, WA 98597

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Michele Livesay

Fall City, WA 980249621

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

James H

Redmond, WA 98052

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Carrie Heron

Seattle, WA 981182763

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Pam Borso

Custer, WA 982400154

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Robert Sanford

Woodland, WA 986749280

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Laura Weiss

Bellingham, WA 982253525

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Lorna Kropp

Spokane, WA 992237206

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Thomas Libbey

Seattle, WA 981223916

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Lin Provost

Seattle, WA 981447205

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Robert Cuthbertson

Mount Vernon, WA 982749167

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Earl McCarter

Tacoma, WA 984432804

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jon FAYTH

, Washington 984032011

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Suzann Finch

Bellingham, WA 982254102

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Lorraine DeGloria

Seattle, WA 98133

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Susan Wilson

Kent, WA 980311394

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

REBECCA STOCKER

Tacoma, WA 984052210

"



Chad Kassen

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Chad Kassen

Port Angeles, WA 98363

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Leslie Sherman

Kirkland, WA 980337394

"

ellen Kassen

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

ellen Kassen

Port Angeles, WA 98363

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

john kassen

Port Angeles, WA 98363

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Brooks

Seattle, WA 98178

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kim Strunk

Bothell, WA 980113680

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jan Tyler

Walla Walla, WA 993624166

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Christina Davis

Spanaway, WA 983875775

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Michael Springer

Seattle, WA 98103

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Delia Gerhard

Seattle, WA 981173038

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Karen Genest

Mount Vernon, WA 982736037

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Bobby Righi

Seattle, WA 981035645

"



Jayson H Luu

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jayson Luu

Renton, WA 98030-2883

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Stacia Haley

Seattle, WA 98108

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

r wood

seattle, WA 21804

"

Larisa Moore

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Larisa Moore

Seattle, WA 981224707

"



Judith Miller

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Judith Miller

Tacoma, WA 98404

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Nancy Hathaway

Spokane, WA 99203

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Chris Nolasco

Lynnwood, WA 980872401

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Sandra Gehri-Bergman

Puyallup, WA 983711940

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Soames

Maple Valley, WA 980387449

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Douglas Taylor

Bonney Lake, WA 983918453

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

edna elze

Thornton, WA 991769739

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Mary Easton

Cosmopolis, WA 985370311

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Villeneuve

Olympia, WA 985129445

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jenepher Spurr

Bellevue, WA 980042019

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Richard Yust

Arlington, WA 982239413

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Lisa Schraufnagel

Puyallup, WA 983732745

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

cheryl sloan

Bellingham, WA 982256457

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Stephen Zettel

Sequim, WA 98382-7391

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Nancy Zylstra

Seattle, WA 981172739

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Richards

Poulsbo, WA 98370

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ruth Zulas

Lake Tapps, WA 98391

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Simone Jarvis

Vancouver, WA 986633228

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ryan Sleight

North Bend, WA 980459645

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Scott Species

Seattle, WA 981011329

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

kaji Dyson

Seattle, WA 981256513

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Matthew Cloner

Seattle, WA 98115

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Diane Dishion

Pasco, WA 993019432

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Dan Freeman

Clinton, WA 982368439

"



Susan P Burnett

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Susan Burnett

Seattle, WA 98133

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Joan Bowers

Seattle, WA 981012779

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

John Ruhland

Seattle, WA 981081511

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Nadine Wallace

Tacoma, WA 984076338

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

m gilbert

Mead, WA 990215130

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ray Couture

Seattle, WA 981680953

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Barry Parker

Vancouver, WA 986641984

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Dale Russ

Tukwila, WA 98188

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Joseph Leatherman

Kirkland, WA 980349441

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Debby Mayberry Jensen

Kirkland, WA 98033

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Nance Nicholls

Davenport, WA 991228681

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Dianne Hurst

Lacey, WA 985166645

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Taen Scherer

Seatac, WA 981885428

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Barbara Cardarelli

Redmond, WA 980522632

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Dave Pierot

Snohomish, WA 98296

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Diana Fries

Othello, WA 993448613

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Trudy Cordes

Bellingham, WA 982295751

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Cristina Briseno

Tacoma, WA 984093913

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Lee Stafford

Bellevue, WA 980044298

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

SUSANA SERNA

Vancouver, WA 986863226

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Richard Donnelly

Bellingham, WA 982296309

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Myrna Lipman

Shoreline, WA 981335671

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Krisitine Kevorkian

FOX ISLAND, WA 98333

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jerry Miller

Vancouver, WA 986838914

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Carol Whitehurst

Tacoma, WA 984065520

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Judy McDonald

, WA 98239

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Mark Joy

Arlington, WA 982237343

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Stan Parker

Bellingham, WA 98225

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jo Harvey

Pacific, WA 98047

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. This particular applicant has been problematic, and should not get special treatment. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our

coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

C.J. Livingston

Seattle, WA 98115

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Edward Kaeufer

Blaine, WA 98230

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Angela Kawlewski

Washougal, WA 986711826

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Richard Grassl

Pasco, WA 993014121

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Margaret S Bomber

Vancouver, WA 986617140

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Marcia Culver

Bellingham, WA 982256605

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Arlene Bell

Seattle, WA 981052445

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Angela Kelly

Olympia, WA 985012943

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Joanna Redman-Smith

Kent, WA 980319609

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

TOBI SOLVANG

FALL CITY, WA 98024

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Valerie Holland

Vancouver, WA 986841805

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Eden

Bainbridge Island, WA 981103604

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

David Huneryager

Seattle, WA 981152140

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Carol Ellis

Seattle, WA 981163725

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Candice Kalb

Tacoma, WA 984223253

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Tita Husted

Lilliwaup, WA 985550327

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Noah Ehler

Monroe, WA 982721073

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Diane Sullivan

Oak Harbor, WA 982774556

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

MaryJo Fontenot

Walla Walla, WA 993622141

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology.

In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures).

Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife."<sup>2</sup>

Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent).

Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been

paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female.

The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Derek Benedict

Lynnwood, WA 98036

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Rose Montgomery

Bremerton, WA 983371368

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

QUENTIN KREUTER

Chewelah, WA 991090779

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Judy Jensen

Vashon, WA 980703605

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Shirley Carmichael

Bonney Lake, WA 983919646

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Becky Henson

Puyallup, WA 983713949

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Gary Kelly

Bothell, WA 98011-6707

"

Judith Dunn

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Judith Dunn

Sedro Woolley, WA 982844340

"



Completely End ALL Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Hal Enerson

Port Angeles, WA 98362

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Karen Gielgens

Kirkland, WA 980343116

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Doug Brown

Otis Orchards, WA 99027

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Juanita Schroeder

Moses Lake, WA 988372652

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Thomas Cox

Kirkland, WA 98034

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Colleen Beck

Woodland, WA 986749557

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

FRANCE MORROW

Yakima, WA 989086103

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kristin Peterson

Kent, WA 980311592

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Steve Wilson

West Richland, WA 993534000

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Gina Abernathy

Sammamish, WA 98075

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Alan Schauer

, Washington 98685

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

j h

Port Angeles, WA 983638647

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Anne Cross

Port Orchard, WA 983665242

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Bledsoe

Seattle, WA 981256725

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Linda Lindquist

Shoreline, WA 981772359

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Antonia Lawrence

Mill Creek, WA 980125035

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

ELLA ELMAN

Redmond, WA 98053

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Allen

Seattle, WA 981186204

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

David Bailey

Sequim, WA 98382

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

jeff lane

KIRKLAND, WA 98034

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

John Gieser

Seattle, WA 981174420

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Pat Siggs

Seattle, WA 981125259

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Deborah Willard

Nine Mile Falls, WA 990260300

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Marcia Gowing

Seattle, WA 98103

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Calista Whitney

Spokane, WA 99212

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Sarah Hanson

Friday Harbor, WA 982508159

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Carla DeCrona

Vashon, WA 980704008

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Lynne Oulman

Bellingham, WA 982256304

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Sean O'Dell

Renton, WA 980595558

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Deardorff

Seattle, WA 981038305

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Michael Calhoon

Des Moines, WA 981989012

"

Linda M Gusch

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Linda Gusch

Newport, WA 99156

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications. THIS PREDATORY RICOH OPERATION FOREIGN-OWNED DESTRUCTIVE OF ALL WATER LIFE MUST BE SHUT DOWN NOW!

Sincerely,

Richard Morgan

Bellingham, WA 98226

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

David Arntson

Bothell, WA 98012

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jessica Spence

SEATTLE, WA 98103

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Max Feingold

, WA 98053

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Anthony Buch

Seattle, WA 98115

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

David Hollingsworth

Covington, WA 980424818

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Maragaret Woll

Bellingham, WA 98225

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Davis

, Washington 98240

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Melinda Mehring

Lakewood, WA 984983326

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kristine Kriner

Seattle, WA 98165

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Michael Nesbitt

Seattle, WA 981992722

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Robby Robinson

Copalis Beach, WA 98535-0238

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

RoseMarie Balch

Olympia, WA 98506

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Brenda Michaels

Port Townsend, WA 98368

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Sandy Braden

Yakima, WA 989019541

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Bruce White

Kirkland, WA 980345845

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Mark McKole

Oak Harbor, WA 98277

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jesse Mallory

Kennewick, WA 993373927

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Diane Weinberger

Greenbank, WA 982539751

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Russell Watson

Vancouver, WA V5W1N9

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

wanda unger

Seattle, WA 981052208

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Karen Geri

Burlington, WA 982333760

"

Virginia (Ginny) Ramey

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

I live on the shores of Puget Sound and had the opportunity to go very close - in a small boat -to the Cooke Aquaculture nets off Cypress Island. These nets had given way months before and polluted Puget Sound with non-native salmon! It was chilling to see the potential for another disaster, as I looked at those throbbing nets!!

.

Because of another disaster like that is possible, why has the Dept. of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout??

Instead of this long delay, I would like to see the following actions taken by you:

1. WAIT to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology.
2. Ecology should undergo consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.
3. D. of E. must revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. Issues of that still are not resolved:
  - a. Water quality
  - b. Net pen safety & escapement
  - c. Switching species from Atlantic salmon  
to steelhead trout

These measures do not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. Instead, they pose new and different risks!

Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations! Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well.

In short, I urge Ecology to use extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits. Why should we allow this company to continue operating its net pens in Washington state??!

Our waters have been threatened by pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, and other water quality pollutants! . These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female.

The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to REMOVE the operations from our waters entirely! Moreover, it's clear that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Cooke needs to go! Permanently!

Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended "" are not enough! Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible. You must proceed with extreme caution and eventually DENY Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

We can not afford another disaster in Puget Sound waters!

Sincerely,

Virginia Ramey

Samish Island

Bow, WA 98232

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Summer Spinks Marasco

Lynnwood, WA 980367231

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Sharon Robertson

Renton, WA 980562671

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Bruce Hall

Bremerton, WA 983372700

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Peta-Maree Lamb

Poulsbo, WA 98370

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kim James

Lynden, WA 982641628

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

M Forman-Mason

University Pl, WA 98467

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Jurus

Vashon, WA 980704961

"

End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. AS YOU MUST, OR YOU SHOULD, DAMN WELL KNOW. I am APPALLED THAT THIS GUTLESS MINDLESS DEAF, DUMB and BLIND TRUMP-CORRUPT Department of Ecology CONTINUES TO GO AGAINST public opinion AND COMMON SENSE, and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state. Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a

different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

EVEN IF YOU'RE TOO SOCIALLY SICK TO BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELVES, please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Patrick Conn

Kent, WA 980319669

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ann Bates

Shoreline, WA 981555825

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kyle Kennedy

Seattle, WA 981052466

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

joanne mayhew

Olympia, WA 985028325

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Alfred Birnbaum

Seattle, WA 981155476

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jacob struiksma

Kenmore, WA 980285018

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Peter Holcomb

Bellingham, WA 982269536

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Conway

MARYSVILLE, WA 98271

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

WOODY SIMMONS

Walla Walla, WA 993623121

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Richard Black

Hansville, WA 983400027

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

David Turnoy

Eastsound, WA 98245

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Larry Lawton

Aberdeen, WA 985209639

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Liz Campbell

Seattle, WA 98103

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Mary Davison

Seattle, WA 98112

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters. Their non-native Atlantic salmon have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jim Byrne

Ridgefield, WA 986429139

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Johnson

Seattle, WA 981252603

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Arthur Kaufman

Seattle, WA 981052057

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

linda howard

Poulsbo, WA 983709542

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Susan K. Jenkins

Seattle, WA 98112

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Sara Eldridge

Seattle, WA 981152350

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Bethany Temple

Kirkland, WA 980348056

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Sammy Low

Stanwood, WA 982927843

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Erland Lofquist

Sedro Woolley, WA 982848565

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Margaret Peyou

Pullman, WA 99163

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Suong Huynh

Kirkland, WA 980344110

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Paula Shafransky

Sedro Woolley, WA 982848586

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ryan Reid

Olympia, WA 98506-5254

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Emmett

Olympia, WA 985034219

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Holly Graham

Olympia, WA 985021535

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Victoria Holman

Auburn, WA 980021816

"



Tora Wienand

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Tora Wienand

Shelton, WA 98584

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Bissett

Bothell, WA 980218862

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Doris Raspa

Vancouver, WA 986623131

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Amy Mower

Maple Falls, WA 98266-2004

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Clary Douwes

Snohomish, WA 982902519

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Rajwantee Robinson

Seatac, WA 981884226

"

Linda Schuyler

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Linda Schuyler

Benton City, WA 99320

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

William Persky

Olympia, WA 985013050

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Crystal Schaffer

Lacey, WA 985037136

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Carrie Pilger

Lynnwood, WA 980876509

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ruth Neuwald Falcon

Seattle, WA 98125

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Lisa Nemeth

Spokane, WA 992057309

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Debbi Pratt

Seattle, WA 981992110

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Eleven Vexler

Mount Vernon, WA 982745021

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Sandra Wilson

Graham, WA 983389077

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jessica Jones

Olympia, WA 985139010

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Annette Fails

Arlington, WA 98223-7891

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

George Summers

Seattle, WA 98144

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Linda Curry

Kelso, WA 986265308

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Marie Marrs

Port Angeles, WA 983637133

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Aisha Farhoud

Seattle, WA 90027

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Gerald Patterson

Anacortes, WA 982211111

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Barbara Lamb

Langley, WA 98260

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Deonet Wolfe

Camano Island, WA 982827551

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Barb Kuchno

Shelton, WA 98584

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Georgann Peck

Tacoma, WA 98465

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Steven Lovelace

Wilkeson, WA 983960245

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Anne Hall

Lopez Island, WA 982618589

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

marie lyndemere

Auburn, WA 98513

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

James Clark

Lake Stevens, WA 982588156

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

f t

Orting, WA 983609449

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Silke Chipchase

Dupont, WA 983278751

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Babik

Burien, WA 981462719

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Paul Weiss

Seattle, WA 981056650

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Shelley Mortinson

Marysville, WA 982707404

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Morris

Grapeview, WA 985469721

"



## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Gena DiLabio

Mount Vernon, WA 982748902

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ruth Darden

Seattle, WA 981157810

"

Charlene Lauzon

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Charlene Lauzon

Lynnwood, WA 98036

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Chris Guillory Guillory

Port Angeles, WA 98362-2803

"



End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

I was so proud of Hillary Franz's decision to disallow Cooke's permits to farm fish in our waters! It gave me renewed confidence that the State was really looking out for the best interest of Washingtonians and our precious environment. And recently we saw the old net pens being hauled away, which felt SO good . . . and so wonderfully final.

I read in the PDN (Peninsula Daily News) today that the Tribe and Cooke Aquaculture are planning to raise steelhead in fish farm nets--again in the Port Angeles harbor--and that the State is re-considering?

Even if they raise steelhead instead of salmon, we all know the net pens damage the water quality and the native fish environment, and should not be allowed. Additionally, Cooke Aquaculture has PROVEN that they are not to be trusted to act responsibly for the sake of our marine environment.

Please don't go backwards--don't let Cooke and the Tribe raise any kind of fish in Washington's nearshore waters!

CAROL VOLK, DVM

Port Angeles, WA 983636115

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Lisa Ehle

Friday Harbor, WA 982509023

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Robert Horn

Woodinville, WA 98072

"

Max DeNise

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Max DeNise

Tumwater, WA 98512

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Corrigan

Snohomish, WA 982907259

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Joan Book

Spanaway, WA 983877865

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Cecilia Alvarez

Seattle, WA 98144

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

karen sheflo

Poulsbo, WA 98370

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

John Hansen

Renton, WA 980562170

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Michael Goldberg

Ocean Park, WA 986404817

"

End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

Animals are God's creations, we need to take better care of them, and their environment.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a

different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

priscilla martinez

Bothell, WA 98011

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

J Michael Pinc

Vancouver, WA 986621729

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jacob struiksmā

Kenmore, WA 980285018

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Mark Frey

Yelm, WA 98597

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

N Robinson

Renton, WA 980582824

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Izzi

Tacoma, WA 984032769

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Karla Taylor

Olympia, WA 985028159

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Bobette Plendl

Everett, WA 982033239

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jan Aszman

Goldendale, WA 986203017

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Alycia Staats

Seattle, WA 981156004

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Giles Sydnor

Seattle, WA 981074107

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Maria Magana

Burlington, WA 982331469

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Clayton Jones

Tukwila, WA 98168

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Daniel Sandvig

Monroe, WA 982728752

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

J Clark

, WA 98155

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Passarelli

Anacortes, WA 98221

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

William Insley

Tacoma, WA 984111461

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Allison Nelson

Seattle, WA 98116

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Mark Simpson

Shelton, WA 98584

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

peter ross

Seattle, WA 981226706

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Nevins

Brinnon, WA 98320

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Adriana Radu

Seattle, WA 98106

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Pamela Roebuck

Lakewood, WA 984982834

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Leslie Pfof

Tacoma, WA 984053712

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Karen Popoff

Omak, WA 98841

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Susanne Murray

Spokane Valley, WA 992066165

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Carrie Taylor

Vancouver, WA 986828539

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Nancy White

Spokane Valley, WA 992160202

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Lorna McGowan-Smith

Lynden, WA 98264

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Sybil Kohl

Seattle, WA 981158112

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Julie Yeager

Elk, WA 99009

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kjersten Gmeiner

Seattle, WA 98125

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Duane Niatum

Seattle, WA 981072512

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Mike Oras

Anacortes, WA 982217407

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Victoria Chinchar

Kent, WA 98042

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Susan Kiplinger

Vancouver, WA 986831804

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Christopher Bain

Bothell, WA 980113217

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Sharon Anderson

Poulsbo, WA 983709501

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Sierra Sanchez

Seattle, WA 981253934

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Carl Woestwin

Seattle, WA 981152407

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Joyce Grajczyk

Kent, WA 980312272

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Robert Vermeers

Bremerton, WA 98310

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Marc Rieck

Marysville, WA 982703783

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Sharren Davis

Vancouver, WA 98684

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Martin you Forster

Port Angeles, WA 983627429

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Carol Armstrong

Seattle, WA 981158222

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Jordan

Lynden, WA 98264

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Valerie Emery

Vancouver, WA 986823624

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Bettina Guttowski

Union Hill-Novelty Hill, WA 22453

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jane Metcalfe

Seattle, WA 98119

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

John Campbell

La Conner, WA 98257

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Toby Fitch

Seattle, WA 981155678

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Carla Helm

La Conner, WA 982570870

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Christine Zander

DEMING, WA 98244

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Nimmons

Bellevue, WA 98006

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do not let Cooke's severe pollution go unpunished - especially in light of their many previous pollution transgressions that only resulted in a "slap on the wrist" punishments.

Do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Daniels

Auburn, WA 980025858

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Maradel Gale

Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Mary Daub

Spokane, WA 992085146

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Alice Flegel

Rochester, WA 985791178

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Melinda Campbell

La Conner, WA 98257

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kathy Golic

North Bend, WA 980458866

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Lauren Sewell

Seattle, WA 981025170

"

Margaret Amber Garlan

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Margaret Garlan

Seattle, WA 98105

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Marie Colvin

Kennewick, WA 993372560

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

LUCI BULL

Ellensburg, WA 989269641

"

Terminate Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

As an environmentally motivated voter, I am chagrined that industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I urge you to wait to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue until the conclusion of the current litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the conclusion of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's process regarding Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology.

In addition, Ecology should formally consult with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request that the Department of Ecology revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to he

practice extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state. Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon

operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from our waters entirely. Moreover, it is clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's extremely harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Linda Carroll

Spokane, WA 992053178

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ann Moseley

Clarkston, WA 99403

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Nancy Shah

Kenmore, WA 980282054

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Pawtowski

Lynnwood, WA 980374122

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Dean Fanara PhD Medical Entomologist

Elk, WA 990099753

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jan Ellis

Port Townsend, WA 983688860

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Joyce Rogich

Tacoma, WA 984087414

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Tom Rarey

Winlock, WA 98596

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Athena F

Belfair, WA 985289348

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Brett Burris

Preston, WA 980500473

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kathlene Croasdale

Redmond, WA 980523406

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Margaret Graham

Seattle, WA 981175630

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Van Meter

Kirkland, WA 980345013

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Caila Robinson

GIG HARBOR, WA 98329

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Gary Woods

Puyallup, WA 983758977

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kristin Felix

Olympia, WA 985029501

"

Lawrence Magliola

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Magliola

Sequim, WA 98382

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Mike Lyman

Colville, WA 991142005

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Deidre Puffer

Tacoma, WA 984457706

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Travis Miller

Seattle, WA 981223264

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Moira Green

Lynden, WA 982649136

"

## Long Past Time to End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

It is beyond frustrating that WA state has done a complete 180 and has decided that Cooke can continue to destroy our local waters with more fish farming. Just because they won't farm Atlantic salmon, doesn't mean that farming steelhead trout is ok. It's still toxic, polluting cruel fish farming! Shame on WA state officials! Your disregard for the health of our local waters is shameful.

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am extremely pissed off to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.



In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state. Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Do the right thing and end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Gayle Janzen

Seattle, WA 981338611

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Lakota Crystal

Roy, WA 98580-8503

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Sam MacKenzie

Vancouver, WA 986613502

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Lin Sunseri

Cheney, WA 990049535

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jo Wagner

Bellingham, WA 98225

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Thomas Robinette

Kent, WA 980645249

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

james hipp

Bellingham, WA 98226-1745

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Sharmayne Busher

Vancouver, WA 98662

"

## Time to End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Charrie Janzen

Seattle, WA 981338611

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Adam Levine

Seattle, WA 981124682

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jill Prevendar

Vancouver, WA 98685

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Linda Rethwisch

Bremerton, WA 98312

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Joanne Watchie

Seattle, WA 981162271

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Spencer Rawls

Seattle, WA 981444170

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jay White

, WA 98401

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Marnie Kennedy

North Bend, WA 980457958

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kara Harms

Bothell, WA 980129635

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Mark Proa

Seattle, WA 981061406

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Duncan Massey

Blaine, WA 982305135

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Alena Schoonmaker

Mead, WA 990219067

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

This company has had other accidents and they still think they deserve to be in our waters! They don't! Our native fish are more important than Cooke's bottom line!!!

Sincerely,

Noel Orr

Shoreline, WA 98155

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Duncan Massey

Blaine, WA V9J 1E1

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Michael McKinnon

Lakewood, WA 98498

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

john zey

Sequim, WA 983829320

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Elaine Besmer

Snoqualmie, WA 980659458

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Dennis Ledden

Sequim, WA 98382

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jamie Kitson

Marysville, WA 982704143

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Alexa Fay

Seattle, WA 981038114

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Phillip Leija

Spokane Valley, WA 992162046

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Indigenous people lived in harmony with the bounties from Mother Earth and they made sure never to harm or deplete the salmon. Cooke's fish farms are detrimental to everything and have been allowed to get away with destruction for far too long! The contract NEVER should have been allowed and, the next one after an accident, should NEVER be allowed! Cancel the contracts and kick them out of our waters so the wild salmon can be free of Cooke's pollution!!

Sincerely,

Lou Orr

Shoreline, WA 98155

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Dina Pearl-Thomas

Bellingham, WA 982252603

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Abigail Brooks

Seattle, WA GU52 6QZ

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Joanna Stiehl

Olympia, WA 985011350

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Julia McLaughlin

Rochester, WA 98579

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Gay Thompson

Selah, WA 989421115

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Janet Dann

Friday Harbor, WA 98250

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Celia Smith

Granite Falls, WA 982520767

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Wendy Atmore

Shoreline, WA 981335749

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Greg Goodwin

Seattle, WA 981651982

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Lee Gresko

Mountlake Terrace, WA 980435412

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Marcela Portaluppi

Sprague, WA 99032

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Eric Zimdars

Seattle, WA 981361993

"

MARK FRANK

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

MARK FRANK

, 98110

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Dennie Carcelli

Burien, WA 981664303

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Renee Bourgea

Vancouver, WA 986865772

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, The Department of Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Nick Broman

Olympia, WA 985034186

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Douglas DeMers

Walla Walla, WA 993623726

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Rich Lague

Seattle, WA 981173014

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Luan Pinson

Vancouver, WA 986641762

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Mary Onufer

Issaquah, WA 980278341

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Bren Bartol

Kenmore, WA 980284936

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Farnoush Katouzian

Tacoma, WA 984652055

"

Kim Aicone

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kim Aicone

Olympia, WA 98501

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

JOANNE CHAPA

Mercer Island, WA 98040

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Hall

Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kayla Cool

Seattle, WA 98116

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Rose Cromby

Lija, WA 98101

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Alessandra Paolini

Sammamish, WA 980746324

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Renee Stearns

Seattle, WA 98109

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Heidi McBride Fritts

Edmonds, WA 980206614

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Barbara Rosenkotter

Deer Harbor, WA 982430136

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Philip Chanen

Seattle, WA 98144

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ruth Allen

Lake Tapps, WA 983915602

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Wheeler

Deer Park, WA 990068514

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Curt Given

Everett, WA 982014800

"

CA

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Grace Padelford

Kirkland, WA 98034

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Grace Padelford

Kirkland, WA 98034

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Alyce Brame=Galyean

Tacoma, WA 984446501

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Hylton

Lopez Island, WA 98261

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Hylton

Lopez Island, WA 98261

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Laurie Lapierre

Moses Lake, WA 98837

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ji-Young Kim

Bothell, WA 980127627

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kristina Rohder

Stanwood, WA 98292

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Desiree Nagyfy

Deer Park, WA 99006

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Leonard Elliott

Auburn, WA 980023046

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Matt Lennon

Ellensburg, WA 989263715

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jody Caicco

Vancouver, WA 986829548

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Diana Johnson

Seattle, WA 98116

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Sally Carter-DuBois

Olympia, WA 985028829

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Craig Feyk

Edmonds, WA 98020

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Tika Bordelon

Seattle, WA 981011965

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Bruce D. Chambers

Seattle, WA 981191807

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Susan Davidson

Seattle, WA 981362133

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

David Cumming

Seattle, WA 98107

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Stefan Lewis

Edmonds, WA 980266207

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Cathy Lindsay

Seattle, WA 981257621

"

Jill Campbell

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

DAVID CAMPBELL

Freeland, WA 98249

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Josefina Lopez

Kent, WA 98031

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Alex Berger

Seattle, WA 981034240

"

Susan Palmer

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Susan Palmer

Redmond, WA 98052

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kim Grantier

Everett, Washington 98208

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Linda Thompsen

Redmond, WA 980522945

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Caroline Bowdish

Pasco, WA 993013539

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Nancy Corr

, Washington 98198

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

S Knoll

Richland, WA 99354

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Elsie Wattson Lamb

Bellingham, WA 982255815

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ji-Young Kim

Bothell, WA 98012

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Shannon Markley

Shoreline, WA 981772723

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will affect the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species, even if the stock is partially sterile or all female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions, although well-intended, are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Sean Edmison

Redmond, WA 98052

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Taylor Phillips

Yakima, WA 989018221

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jane Penner

Bellingham, WA 982267838

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Julie Taylor

Mountlake Terrace, WA 980434438

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Bruce Hampton

Tacoma, WA 98444

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Margaret Woll

Bellingham, WA 98225

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

tanya lana

Westport, WA 985951811

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Emily Childs

Seattle, WA 981181732

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Arianna Zarate

Oak Harbor, WA 982774119

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

William Coughlin

Gig Harbor, WA 983321012

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kenlee Ducoing

Seattle, WA 981162531

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Anita Waytz

Bellingham, WA 982297781

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ellen Lyons

Seattle, WA 98119

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Oleg Varanitsa

Redmond, WA 980524063

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

mary n

Vancouver, WA 986833908

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Nick Barcott

Lynnwood, WA 98087

"

End Cooke Aquaculture's operations ASAP!!!

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Felicia Dale

Tulalip, WA 98271

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Cindy Rose

Seattle, WA 981257615

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Dennis Bahr

Snohomish, WA 98296

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

kaye adkins

Tumwater, WA 985016890

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Crystal Hultberg

Pullman, WA 991633145

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Ward

Lynnwood, WA 980366200

"

pete weymiller

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Pete Weymiller

Gig Harbor, WA 98335

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Mike Schuster

Deming, WA 982449415

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Susan Schlee

, Washington 98110

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Nancy Hh

, WA 98520

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Cristina Holland

Bellingham, WA 982268316

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Robert Bortolin

Kirkland, WA 980341038

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Christine Mullie

Winthrop, WA 988629700

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

LUCAS WITT

Battle Ground, WA 98604

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Gindt

Yakima, WA 989025091

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kelley Coleman-Slack

Bellingham, WA 98229

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kim Howe

Seattle, WA 98115

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

CHARLENE DONOVAN

Vancouver, WA 98664

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Patricia Carter

Port Townsend, WA 98368

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Susan Froeschner

Seattle, WA 981034320

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Deb Kalahan

Renton, WA 98059

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ruth Hooper

Seattle, WA 981183917

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Therese Nielson

Spokane, WA 992031761

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Peter Marshall

Bellevue, WA 980047535

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hughes

Anacortes, WA 98221

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Sky Aisling

Port Townsend, WA 983680011

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Bill Bowman

La Conner, WA 982579530

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

William Cullen

Olympia, WA 985017119

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Roxanne Ray

, 98102

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Grace Padelford

Kirkland, WA 98034

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Marco Di Marzio

Dublin, WA 65123

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Richard Bergner

Anacortes, WA 982218754

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

As a fisherman I have witnessed the tragic decline in our anadromous fisheries in the last decade and am familiar with the risk fish farms pose to our native fish. We simply cannot allow industrial fish farms with the resultant diseases, sea lice and fecal pollution to continue in our marine waters. As you are aware, industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state. Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been

paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Richard Curtis

CHEHALIS, WA 98532

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

A L

Kenmore, WA 980283567

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Susan Leavitt

Seattle, WA 981446214

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Heather CAMPBELL

Bellingham, WA 98229

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Gary Brill

Seattle, WA 981337580

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Welton

Carnation, WA 98014

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

This company has a proven record of non-compliance. Whether by design or by negligence, neither they nor any other company should be given the benefit another chance when the stakes for Puget Sound waters are so high.

Sincerely,

Deborah Bornzin

Bellingham, WA 982264182

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Barbara Bear

ANACORTES, WA 98221

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

James Minick

Lyle, WA 986359318

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Michael Betz

Bellingham, WA 982253505

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Pamela Warren

Anacortes, WA 98221

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Ally Jones

Seattle, WA 11221

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Sophie DeRuiter

Yelm, WA 985979611

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Daryl Johnson

Friday Harbor, WA 982508520

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Matthew Boguske

Redmond, WA 980523495

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Miss Jensen

, Washington 99204

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Brian Larson

Seattle, WA 981175823

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

June Sevier

Port Angeles, WA 983639638

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

John Primrose

Bellingham, WA 982256546

"

Becaley Elsie

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Becaley Elsie

Seattle, WA 98112

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Vanassa Lundheim

Everett, WA 982033144

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

David Starke

Vancouver, WA 986845945

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

John Kenny

Edmonds, WA 980203060

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Diana Cristina

Port Angeles, WA 98362-8350

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Molly Sutor

Spokane, WA 992248211

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Tristan Stone

Spokane, WA 992011535

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from



our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Caroline Das Neves

, Washington 00000

"

End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming pollutes our waters and harms wild salmon. Please do NOT allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

The water quality permits are at issue due to litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision. And the Feds are conducting an ESA biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, with impacts to the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology.

Plus Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Slow down!

New information was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures).

Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. So Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife."

Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. So reconsider ALL water quality risks associated with this industry.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered.

Human health is at stake: pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from our waters entirely.

Simply deny the permit!

Yours,

Carol Ellis

Spokane, WA 992034045

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPES permit applications.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Blackburn

Yelm, WA 985978943

"

## End Cooke Aquaculture's operations

"Dear Ms. Niewolny:

Industrial ocean fish farming has been polluting our waters and harming our wild, native salmon for far too long. I am distraught to see that the Department of Ecology has gone against public opinion and prepared draft water quality permits that will allow Cooke Aquaculture to bypass the industry phaseout and transition its existing Puget Sound net pens to cultivate steelhead trout.

I want to urge the importance of waiting to reach a decision on the water quality permits at issue. There is currently litigation pending against the Department of Fish and Wildlife's flawed permitting process and decision, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the process of conducting an Endangered Species Act biological opinion on the impacts of Puget Sound net pens on protected species. Both of these developments are ongoing, and both will impact the water quality permitting processes and decisions before Ecology. In addition, Ecology should undergo formal consultation with all impacted local, state, federal, and tribal governments before reaching a decision on these permits. Ecology should place a hold on any further action related to the draft water quality permits until these actions are fully and finally completed.

Moreover, I request the Department of Ecology to revisit its conclusion that the issuance of these permits will not change the effect to water quality in Puget Sound. First, there is substantial new information that was not considered during the SEPA process for the permits (including Cooke's plan for marking steelhead, Cooke's "no-recovery response" plan, and Cooke's plans for new pen structures). Second, Washington's landmark 2018 law, HB2957, created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net pen aquaculture, which places higher standards for regulating and monitoring water quality. Under HB2957, Ecology must adopt the new standard of review to achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Third, switching species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead trout does not reduce the rampant daily pollution and water quality risks posed by open water net pen aquaculture. In fact, the proposed change in species poses new and different risks, and there are a number of inherent problems with this industry regardless of the species being cultivated (including but not limited to, fish effluent and waste, amplification and discharge of pathogens, and discharge of antibiotics and medical effluent). Ecology should reconsider all water quality risks associated with this industry and not limit the scope of their review to risks associated with only a change of species.

Finally, speaking to the draft permits themselves, Ecology is obligated to do all it can to ensure Cooke's compliance of all rules and limitations set by the NPDES permits. Any noncompliance should swiftly be met with harsh penalties, including immediate permit revocation. Cooke's escape prevention and escape response plans must be carefully considered in this permit process as well. We cannot afford to let another Cypress Island spill occur in Puget Sound.

In short, I urge Ecology to heed extreme caution before reaching a decision on the draft water discharge permits, as they would allow the company to continue operating its net pens in the state.

Pharmaceuticals, viruses, parasites, excess nutrients, and other water quality concerns have been paramount with Cooke's Atlantic salmon operations. These issues are not mitigated by simply raising a different fish species – even if the stock is partially sterile/all-female. The only way to truly protect our coastline and wildlife from the harms of industrial ocean fish farming is to remove the operations from

our waters entirely. Moreover, it's clear from recent history that Cooke has no intention of operating in accordance with our environmental conservation and protection laws and regulations. Therefore, any proposed, tougher restrictions – although well-intended – are not enough. Cooke's destructive facilities have no place in our waters.

Please do all you can to end Cooke's incredibly harmful practices in our waterways as soon as possible, including by proceeding with extreme caution and eventually denying Cooke's NDPEs permit applications.

Sincerely,

Michael And Barbara Hill

Mineral, WA 98355

"