

John Forster

I have worked in the the aquaculture industry and related research activities since 1965, including 31 years in Washington State where participated in several different aquaculture activities, including management of the salmon farm in Port Angeles Harbor from 1984-1994 and as part owner and president of Columbia River Fish Farms from 1995-2003.

I believe Cooke Aquaculture's plan to switch production to sterile Steelhead Trout in its Washington farms makes good sense. If approved it will keep alive an industry in Washington that started in the 1970's and has grown worldwide so that fresh farmed salmon and trout are now readily available year round to most U.S. consumers. During this time the industry worldwide has innovated and made great improvements in its practices and the design and operation of the equipment used.

Cooke Aquaculture is a global leader in the salmonid farming industry and Washington State is fortunate to have such a company willing to invest in and develop the salmonid farming industry there. In the years ahead there is no doubt that the salmonid farming industry will continue to innovate and grow and with Cooke Aquaculture as it's leading producer the State is in a good position to benefit from this growth.