

Kurt Grinnell

Okay, good evening and thank you again. Kurt Grinnell from the Jamestown S'Klallam tribe again. I'm a councilman and a natural resource policy rep. I'm also head of our seafood aquaculture programs and on behalf of the tribe, I'd like to say, hello to everybody tonight and Karen and Allen.

So, the Jamestown tribe's a sovereign nation, but we're really not truly sovereign unless we can feed our people and with the state of affairs, with our wild salmon, as much as we've worked on the habitat, all the issues out there surrounding the survival rates of our needed populations and fish out there, generally our seafood, Jamestown has decided to begin an aquaculture program. They actually tried to start in the 80's, were unable to do so with their fish production.

Well, we do have two hatcheries. We do have two shellfish hatcheries currently raising geoduck and oysters and we also have a pretty large nursery system here in Sequim Bay.

We also are in a partnership with NOAA and the University of Washington growing all female, native sablefish. We hope to bring these two viable commercial interest in the future, which also looks good and again we talked about native species - when the Atlantic's were on their way out we had decided and I testified whether tribal leaders that we would be okay with the native species to farm these fish, and we were already in the businesses. Other tribes in the business as tribes with over two million coho and net-pens and they release them and they come back and they catch them and so the sport fisheries and other people in the community, and we don't have a big problem with that. We haven't had three fish that are released, and without these hatchery fish, these net-pen fish that are released, we really wouldn't have any fish with catch.

But really, our sovereignty in our tribe is food sovereignty. If we are unable to feed ourselves and history shows that with tribes there have been periods of times that we have not been able to feed our own people, and we're just start to fail as a culture and as a society, and so we are very, very supportive of the decision by Ecology to, you know, to okay these permits. Same with WDFW. We believe in their science. We're very science based in Jamestown. That's all we have. We do believe in science. It's what we do, and we feel that that done properly using best practices, best science, that aquaculture, whether it's shellfish or fish, they should be done sustainably, and we look seven generations down the road.

A lot of people know that's how we, the Indian tribes, look. We look at our futures. We look out seven generations. We want to know that we are going to be able to feed our people and create jobs

and teach our people how to grow their own food into the future when we're here and when we are all long gone.

We, and also we do, we realize there's been a release of fish and shortly after Cooke purchased the operations from Icicle, had Icicle held on to the operations for another six or eight months, it would have collapsed on them, so we realize in every kind of industry, there's accidents, there's mistakes that happen or in this case, maybe pens were in disrepair, and so we realize that after spending a lot of time with Cooke, looking at all their operations throughout Canada and down here in Washington state, we think that there that their heads up in their operations and they're good folks.

We have partnered with Cooke and we hope to begin operations to raise these sterile, native steelhead and our sablefish and, you know, in possibly Port Angeles Harbor.

So I just want to reiterate our support for these decisions to allow us, not just Cooke, but other tribes that like us-- there are other tribes in Washington state, I know, that are that are raising steelhead trout to adulthood to maybe 2 million pounds in a month, so this is not new to Washington state. Steelhead are being raised already. There are other tribes out to the raising [inaudible] and releasing them, so I think this is kind of semantics in some way. There's a lot of fish rearing going on between net-pens and hatcheries, and then they're splitting hairs on how long to raise them and whether you release them or do you just harvest them right out of the net.

And so, yeah, so anyway, this does give Jamestown somewhat of a guarantee into the future for food, sovereignty, food security jobs for our people and also helps our tax base, so I thank you. Appreciate your time.