

Jon Steeves

I approve and encourage growth of the aquaculture industry anywhere in the country, including these projects submitted by cooke aquaculture. we as a nation import 85%-90% of all seafood consumed and to not have our own production secured as a nation is criminal. As we have seen throughout this covid crisis our reliance on other countries to meet our production demands can have serious implications. Aquaculture is scientifically proven to be sustainable and profitable and will help meet the need of increasing demand on locally sourced seafood. it creates good paying careers for people that would otherwise be left behind due to lack of skills or education and helps relieve the burden on the state.

Cooke though large in size has always operated in areas that often get forgotten or left behind, i suspect this will be no different and the areas of their operations will see an influx in demand to other local business and indirect spending by the business, its employees and other contractors and providers.

I fully support this growth industry and encourage governments country wide to get behind the industry to see it able to grow and become competitive with other nations.