

RESOLUTION TO CEASE PERMITTING ATLANTIC SALMON AQUACULTURE IN WASHINGTON'S MARINE WATERS.

WHEREAS, recent events clearly demonstrate the commercial Atlantic salmon aquaculture industry is highly vulnerable to accidents resulting in massive release of non-native species into the waters of Washington State.

WHEREAS, protecting and restoring native salmon and their habitat is an objective in which Washington has invested millions of dollars together with federal block grant funds. Taxpayers should no longer unknowingly be asked to subsidize the economic and environmental cost incurred to mitigate the negative effects of effluent, parasites, and escapement of net pen raised Atlantic salmon.

WHEREAS, the permitting of Atlantic salmon aquaculture in public waters of the Salish Sea distorts and undercuts the market for Atlantic salmon raised more responsibly in land based closed containment operations by \pm \$2 per pound. Washington's current policies underwrite risky operations and handicap the development of ecologically superior alternatives.

WHEREAS, birds such as the recently uplisted Marbled Murrelet and numerous other fish foraging birds rely on a healthy marine waters food web that now suffers from the antibiotic drugs, inadequately maintained net pens, incompletely regulated permits, and harvesting methods and equipment used in industrial Atlantic salmon production.

WHEREAS, Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-26-201 (3)(E)(iii), Addressing cumulative Impacts in developing Shoreline Master Programs: "The principle that regulation of development shall achieve no net loss of ecological function requires that master program policies and regulations address the cumulative impacts on shoreline ecological functions that would result from future shoreline development and uses that are reasonably foreseeable from proposed master programs. To comply with the general obligation to assure no net loss of shoreline ecological function, the process of developing the policies and regulations of a shoreline master program requires assessment of how proposed policies and regulations cause and avoid such cumulative impacts."

WHEREAS, the Federal Clean Water Act calls for protection and restoration of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters.

WHEREAS, the Endangered Species Act requires the protection of listed salmonids.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Washington State Audubon Chapters oppose permitting of Atlantic salmon marine net pen aquaculture in Washington State; And that we further oppose renewing or extending existing leases on Department of Natural Resources (DNR) aquatic lands for Atlantic salmon net pen aquaculture.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Washington State Chapters will urge their elected officials to introduce and pass legislation to cease issuing permits for Atlantic salmon marine net pen aquaculture in Washington State; And that DNR cease to renew or extend existing aquatic leases for Atlantic salmon net pen aquaculture.

AND THAT WE FURTHER RESOLVE, to encourage our State Legislators to pass laws enabling State agencies to work with private commercial enterprises to develop an Atlantic salmon aquaculture industry that is fully regulated, environmentally sound, and operated on land based closed containment facilities.