

## Merrill, Hannah

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**From:** [REDACTED] John Dentler [jdentler@troutlodge.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 06, 2013 2:23 PM  
**To:** zSMP  
**Cc:** Jeffree Stewart; Laura Hoberecht; John Bielka; Alan Cook; Dan Swecker; jack field; Elliott, Richard  
**Subject:** Comments on Final Draft SMP  
**Attachments:** Clallam County SMP Comments Feb 2013.pdf

Dear Sirs or Madam.

Attached are our comments on the Final Draft SMP. Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments. If you or staff should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Cordially,  
John Dentler

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**February 6, 2013**

Clallam County Planning Commission  
Attn: Shoreline Master Program Comments  
223 East Fourth Street  
Port Angeles, WA 98362

**RE: Comments on the Draft Shoreline Management Plan Revision for Clallam County**

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing you on behalf of Troutlodge, Inc., Troutlodge Marine Farms and Troutlodge Sablefish LLC in relation to Clallam County's draft Shoreline Master Program (SMP).

Thank you for the opportunity to present comments on the first Draft Shoreline Master Program for Clallam County as well as the second and Final Draft. We know that the SMP presents a great deal of work and effort and we believe it is substantially improved from the prior draft. We specifically note that many of our prior comments were incorporated in the Final Draft and we thank everyone involved in the revision process.

However, we believe that several provisions of the SMP, if adopted, would be detrimental to aquaculture and would continue to make the siting and development of aquaculture -- and in particular, finfish aquaculture -- extremely difficult if not impossible. Several provisions, which are noted in the letter herein would, if adopted, foreclose valuable opportunities to raise seafood in Clallam County. In turn, such policies and regulations would, if enacted

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- (1) continue to exacerbate the roughly \$10 billion dollar U.S. trade deficit in seafood,
- (2) foreclose the addition of valuable U.S. jobs in the seafood sector and an opportunity to stimulate the local and rural economy, and
- (3) adversely affect human health, and in particular, consumers, especially those of modest means, who often depend on aquaculture raised seafood to provide a health nutritious food source, high in omega-3 fatty acids. These fatty acids are proven, beyond a shadow of a doubt, to be vitally important to sound human health.

For these reasons, we believe that several regulations in the Draft SMP requires revision and clarification.

Before moving to substantive matters I'd like to tell you a bit about Troutlodge.

**A. Troutlodge has a successful history in Washington where we provide jobs, support the tax base and provide healthy fish and fish products for anglers and consumers.**

Troutlodge has been in the trout egg production and sales business for over 65 years. We annually produce and sell nearly 500 million live trout eggs to nearly 60 countries on 5 continents. For this reason, our welfare and that of our employees depends on the ability to export disease-free trout eggs around the world. In addition, we produce catchable trout for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) for its trout fishery program and for federal, state and local agencies, such as Public Utility Districts. In addition, through Troutlodge Sablefish, we produce black cod (sablefish) in Jefferson County and sell the resulting fry to companies that, in turn, raise them in net pens in Puget Sound and Canada.

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We employ 60 workers in Washington where we operate 9 facilities (Winchester, Tacoma, Soap Lake 1 and 2, Orting, Rochester, Hoodport, Sumner, Brinnon), as well as facilities in Oregon, Idaho, Florida and Hawaii, the Isle of Man and Chile.

Our Brinnon facility in Jefferson County is located at the Point Whitney Shellfish laboratory where Troutlodge Marine and Troutlodge Sablefish LLC lease a portion of WDFW-owned site. The WDFW produced finfish and shellfish at this site for many years.

We do not operate any net-pens; however, our business and employees depend on well-managed and vibrant net-pen farms throughout Puget Sound as our trout and sablefish are grown in net pens here in Washington and in Canada.

**B. Troutlodge implements advanced measures to prevent the introduction and spread of diseases.**

Troutlodge and other companies involved in the culture of salmon, trout or marine species like black cod, take many measures to maintain and operate facilities so as to prevent the introduction or spread of pathogens in our facilities.

Troutlodge implements advanced biosecurity measures at our facilities to prevent the introduction or transmission of diseases. For example, visitors and employees must disinfect their shoes and hands before entering our facilities. Visitors who have been to other fish hatcheries within the past 24 hours may not enter our hatcheries. Equipment and vehicles must be disinfected prior to entering our facilities, etc. Many other measures are also implemented with the goal of preventing the introduction of diseases into, within or from our facilities. Net pen operators have similar stringent biosecurity programs.

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All of Troutlodge's egg exports must be produced from facilities that have received Animal Health Certification from an independent veterinarian approved by the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), a unit of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Further, the pathogen testing protocols must meet the requirements of APHIS. Under the APHIS testing protocol, fish tissue samples are collected by an independent veterinarian and sent to the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (WADDL) at Washington State University. This protocol has been followed for many years to assess pathogens on our trout populations.

To the extent that the Count's Draft SMP is in response to concerns over the allegations of that the Infections Salmon Anemia (ISA) virus is present in some salmon net-pen populations, *we note that there has been no confirmation of the virus in any population either in Puget Sound or the Pacific Coast of Canada.* Further, we are informed by WADDL that, had the ISA Virus been present in our trout populations, the pathogen testing protocol we have used for many years would have detected its presence. In fact, WADDL has never detected the presence of any viruses in our trout populations. We also use the same general procedures for disease testing of our sablefish (black cod) at our Brinnon facility.

Our Fish Health Surveillance and Monitoring Plan meet all the requirements of the World Organization for Animal Health<sup>1</sup> and require twice annual comprehensive sampling and disease evaluation and analysis.

I would now like to expound on my initial comments:

**A. The Revised Draft SMP provisions on aquaculture would likely harm seafood consumers of modest means and have the potential to adversely affect human health.**

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Fish and fish products, including those products resulting from aquaculture production, represent healthy and wholesome food products. Many fish and fish products are high in omega-3 fatty acids which are vitally important for human health, including prenatal health, fetal development, brain development, heart and circulatory health, decreased incidence of dementia and Alzheimer disease, reduced symptoms of ADHD, reduced effects of rheumatoid arthritis, reduced rate and severity of depression, reduced ill-effects of asthma, and many other facets of health.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, salmon and trout grown in the Northwest and sablefish (also known as black cod) a species native to the Northwest and being grown in aquaculture are among those species with the highest levels of DHA and EPA (two types of Omega-3 fatty acids).<sup>3,4</sup>

Aquaculture is also one of the most efficient ways to produce protein since (a) fish do not use energy to keep warm, (b) they are neutrally buoyant, thus they do not use energy to remain upright and fight gravity, and (c) they have far less bony and other tissues used to fight gravity.<sup>5</sup>

Not surprisingly, aquaculture is the world's fastest-growing source of animal protein, according to a report published by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization.<sup>6</sup> Further, aquaculture products now supply approximately one-half of all fish and fish products consumed world-wide.<sup>7</sup> While it would be wonderful if the average consumer could afford wild fish on a regular basis, the fact is that at many times of the year, consumers of modest means are unable to afford wild-produced seafood. For that reason, we urge the County to carefully reconsider Final Draft SMP and the negative effects it will have on consumers and human health as a result of prohibitive aquaculture regulations.

**B. The County's SMP, if carefully drafted, could create jobs and help reduce the U.S. trade deficit in seafood products.**

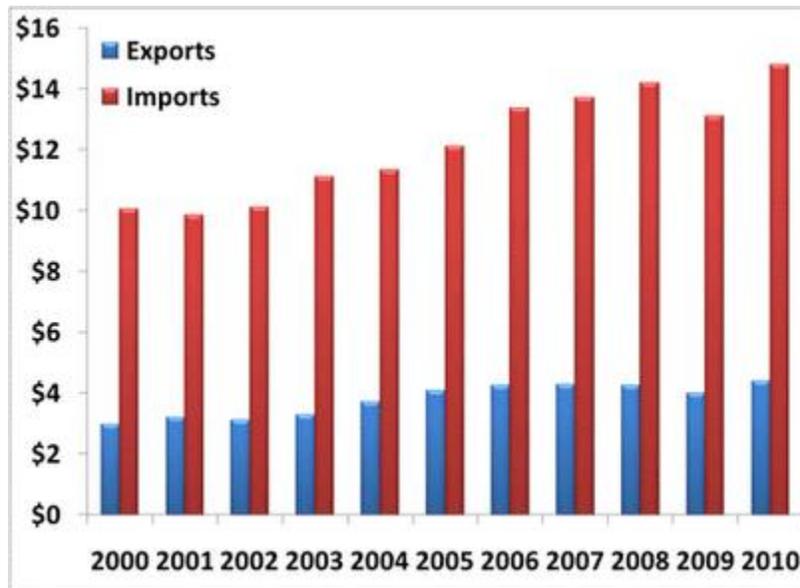
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The US seafood trade deficit is, unfortunately, growing at an alarming rate. The latest data available indicate that we have a net trade deficit of roughly \$10 billion in seafood products.

(Source: [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishwatch/trade\\_and\\_aquaculture.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishwatch/trade_and_aquaculture.htm))



Currently, the Department of Commerce estimates that 84 percent of the seafood consumed in the U.S. is imported.<sup>8</sup> This is due, in our opinion, to many factors, but ultimately is the culmination of production costs differences, largely labor, and regulatory burdens that make it impractical to produce seafood in the U.S via aquaculture. Further impediments such as those proposed by Clallam County through its Draft SMP will likely drive more aquaculture production offshore where the final product will be imported.

In 2010 the U.S. imported over \$1 billion dollars worth of salmon.<sup>9</sup> In 2012, Over \$500 million dollars worth of net-pen reared salmon are imported by the U.S. from Chile each year. The air freight cost alone from moving these salmon is over \$89 million annually. Moreover, growing salmon and other fish locally

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would reduce greenhouse gases and provide significant employment. Currently, the 21 acres of surface area occupied by net pens in Puget Sound results in a payroll of over \$2 million.

Importantly, many other countries do not implement or enforce equivalent health, safety and environmental controls as in the U.S. The adoption of policies that force aquaculture offshore and serve to increase the U.S. Trade deficit in seafood products should be thoroughly considered prior to adding redundant and duplicative burdens such as included in the Clallam County Draft SMP.

**C. Several of Clallam County’s proposed SMP provisions on finfish aquaculture appear to be based on misconceptions.**

It appears that the County’s proposed position on finfish aquaculture in the shoreline may be premised on misconceptions and unsubstantiated allegations. We would like to make the following points:

Regardless of the County’s position on the culture of Atlantic salmon in net pens, we urge the County to keep in mind that native species, such as sablefish (black cod) (*Anoploploma fimbria*) are currently being grown in net pens in Puget Sound and steelhead (*Oncorhykiss mykiss*) are being grown in net pens in the Columbia River.<sup>10</sup> With regard to sablefish, the National Marine Fisheries Service states:

Sablefish [black cod] have a rich oil content, which makes them exceptionally flavorful and, therefore, a very valuable commercial species. In fact, sablefish are the highest valued finfish per pound in Alaska and west coast commercial fisheries. Sablefish has traditionally been exported to Japan, where demand and prices are

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high, but an increasing amount is staying in the U.S. market as consumers are starting to appreciate this unique, tasty fish.<sup>11</sup>

Moreover, the catch levels for sablefish are not likely to increase in the near future.<sup>12</sup>

Should the County's position be based on concerns regarding Atlantic salmon, we urge the County to keep this fact in mind as it evaluates comments on the Draft SMP and its opportunity to revise the SMP. We do not imply that rearing Atlantic salmon net-pens is flawed but simply wish to underscore that aquaculture is very diverse.

I will now turn towards specific comments regarding the Policies and Regulations governing aquaculture.

**D. Many specific provisions of the Draft SMP should be reevaluated.**

**1. Policies**

**Draft Policy 5.3.2.3.** Commercial aquaculture operations that propagate non-native fish species should be discouraged unless these operations are conducted in upland systems, fully self-contained aquatic systems, or can be shown to present low risk of escapement, disease transmission, or significant waste-related environmental impacts.

**Comment 1:**

We appreciate the changes made in this policy from the prior draft policy and the change from a "no risk" to a "low risk" approach. However, we will note that fully closed-containment systems are not economically viable. We are aware of no commercially viable closed containment aquaculture operations that are not supported by government subsidies, grant programs or other means of support. Although closed containment technology is advancing it is

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not yet economically feasible to rear finfish in such systems. Moreover, as we noted previously, movement of fishes in the U.S. including non-native species, must pass rigorous disease testing protocols. For that reason, risks of disease transmission is low.

**Comment 2: Atlantic Salmon in Washington -- a non-native species.**

The above policy may have been proposed in response to concerns raised regarding the accidental escape of Atlantic salmon in Puget Sound and risk for Atlantic salmon to become established in Washington where they may compete with native salmon species. We understand and appreciate this concern. Our long-term welfare depends on sound salmon and trout genetic resources and we consider native salmon stocks an important asset for all Washington's citizens. However, for nearly 100 years, federal and state agencies attempted to establish Atlantic salmon in the Pacific Northwest. These efforts failed rather miserably. It appears that Atlantic salmon are not good colonizers here in the Pacific Northwest.<sup>13</sup> Further, Atlantic salmon have been reared throughout Canada and in Puget Sound for over 30 years without detrimental effects. There is no data or scientific evidence to suggest that, in the case of Atlantic salmon, their culture should be discouraged.

Moreover, the companies involved in net-pen aquaculture have taken extensive efforts to eliminate or minimize the escape or loss of salmon, steelhead and sablefish from their net-pens. To do otherwise would result in huge economic losses and would eliminate the possibility for future employment and sound economic benefits.

We will now turn to the Draft SMP Regulations.

**2. Regulations**

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**Draft Regulation 3.2.3.3.** Ongoing maintenance, harvest, replanting, or changing the species cultivated in any existing or permitted aquaculture operation is not considered new use/development, and shall not require a new permit, unless or until:

a. The physical extent of the physical extent of the area of cultivation is expanded by twenty-five percent (25%) or more compared to the conditions that existed as of the effective date of this Program or any amendment thereto. If the amount of expansion exceeds twenty-five percent (25%) in any ten (10) year period, the entire operation shall be considered new aquaculture and shall be subject to applicable permit requirements of this section; or

b. The permit holder proposes to cultivate any genera that have not previously been regularly cultivated in Washington.

**Comment 1.** It is unclear why a new shoreline permit would be required when a facility proposes to cultivate "**any genera not previously been regularly cultivated in Washington.**" Why should a new permit be required for instance to switch from raising Atlantic salmon to, for example, sablefish (also known as black cod) or rockfish, both species native to Washington? This regulation acts as a disincentive to switch from a non-native species to a native species -- something other regulations and policies appear to desire.

Assuming the desire is to have some control over major changes in structures and uses, we recommend that the "or" in clause (a) be stricken and clause (b) above be stricken and insert in lieu thereof the following two subparagraphs:

*b. The permit holder proposes to cultivate a non-native genera that have not previously been cultivated in Washington for at least one year, or ;*

*c. Proposes to switch to a species that requires substantial changes in shorelines structures or operations.*

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**Draft Regulation 3.2.3.6.c.** Aquaculture activities not listed or meeting the criteria above shall require a shoreline substantial development permit or conditional use permit as indicated in Table 2-2, and shall be subject to all of the following regulations:

c. Sleeping quarters and other work structures accessory to aquaculture use/development shall not be constructed in or over water. This regulation shall not preclude the use of moored watercraft for sleeping or work quarters when such moorage is consistent with this Program.

**Comment 1.** The intent of the regulations is not clear. Why should sleeping quarters be prohibited? There is simply no rational basis for this provision. Aquaculture operations must allow for sleeping quarters to ensure that the operators may appropriately respond in the event of an emergency that occurs during the night. Moreover, workers must be allowed comfortable places to rest. We believe that this regulation may also be void due to the fact that it may violate OSHA and other federal and state Labor laws. Moreover, there is simply no rational basis to allow "moored watercraft for sleeping" but not other constructed sleeping quarters. Should such workers not be afforded a reasonable and safe work place? Notably aesthetic effects are addressed elsewhere in the proposed regulations and do not need to be addressed here with the provision on sleeping quarters. Because the provision at issue is irrational, and would not foster all reasonable and appropriate uses, it violates the SMA and the Administrative Procedures Act ("APA").

**Draft Regulation 3.2.3.6.d.** Aquaculture activities not listed or meeting the criteria above shall require a shoreline substantial development permit or conditional use permit as indicated in Table 2-2, and shall be subject to all of the following regulations:

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d. Floating/hanging aquaculture structures and associated equipment shall not exceed six (6) feet in height above the water's surface. The Administrator may approve hoists and similar structures greater than six (6) feet in height when there is a clear demonstration of need. The six (6) foot height limit shall not apply to vessels.

**Comment 1.** It is not clear why the six foot limitation is utilized. Many vessels are over six feet above the water but do not face the hurdle that this clause would establish. Moreover, it is common for the aquaculture industry to utilize feeding barges that over six feet in height. It is practically impossible to use a feeding barge that is not at least six feet in height. The proposed regulation would unreasonably cause a special procedure to be established to use a barge that has no more effect than a "vessel". Moreover, the regulations include measures to address aesthetic effects. There is no rational basis for this distinction and no evidence in the record to support differential and adverse treatment. This clause should be eliminated or amended to authorize feeding barges. Because the provision at issue is irrational, and would not foster all reasonable and appropriate uses, it violates the SMA and the APA.

**Draft Regulation 3.2.3.6.m** Aquaculture waste materials and by-products shall be disposed of in a manner that will ensure strict compliance with all applicable governmental waste disposal standards, including but not limited to the Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401, and the Washington State Water Pollution Control Act (RCW 90.48)

**Comment 1.** The proposed clause is duplicative and redundant. Aquaculture operations are already obligated to comply with the Clean Water Act and the Washington State Water Pollution Control Act. There is no point in wasting paper to reiterate this fact. We therefore recommend the draft regulation be eliminated.

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**Draft Regulation 3.2.3.7.** Prior to approving a permit for a new aquaculture use or development, the Administrator may require, at his/her discretion, a visual analysis prepared by the applicant/proponent describing effects on nearby uses and aesthetic qualities of the shoreline. The analysis shall demonstrate that significant adverse impacts on the character of those areas are effectively mitigated.

**Comment 1.** We recommend that the last sentence of the draft regulation be stricken or, in the alternative, amended as follows:

"The analysis shall demonstrate that the adverse impacts on the character of those areas are minimized or to the extent practicable mitigated."

As we have noted throughout, aquaculture of any kind will result in changes to the environment, including the visual character of the shoreline environment. However, U.S. consumers, and the potential for additional U.S. jobs, should not be held hostage by unreasonable claims that aquaculture represents a visual impact. There is a huge and growing trade deficit in seafood products in the U.S -- \$10 billion USD in 2011. Seafood products of aquaculture-origin are high in omega-3 fatty acids which are increasingly shown to provide substantial human health benefits. The County, through its SMP, should not create such a plethora of barriers and impediments which essentially eliminate the possibilities for aquaculture development. We believe that in some cases, it may not be physically or economically possible to entirely mitigate significant adverse impacts on the "character" of certain areas. It may, however, be possible within reason to minimize such impacts. For that reason, we urge the County to amend the draft regulation as suggested.

**Draft Regulation 3.2.3.10. f:** In-water finfish aquaculture facility production capacity shall not exceed 1,000,000 pounds annual production per square nautical mile.

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**Comment 1.** The 1 million pound annual limitation for a "facility" per square mile would likely prohibit all net pen operations. The provision would simply make them uneconomical. The SEPA and NEPA process should be use to assess and evaluate the environmental effects of any particular proposal. Any significant adverse impacts to the environment can then be minimized or where practicable, mitigated. A "one-size-fits-all" approach with terms as included here would prohibit all net pen operations. Further, such a provision does not reasonably foster all appropriate and reasonable uses as required under the SMA and does not reasonably accommodate water dependent uses. On a more practical basis this provision alone would exacerbate the current \$10 billion trade deficit, make healthy seafood products less available to consumers of moderate means, cause attendant adverse human health effects and forego significant employment and economic opportunities of vital importance to rural counties such as Clallam County. We believe the provision is not supported by sound science and it violates the SMA and the APA.

**Draft Regulation 3.2.3.10. h** All in-water finfish aquaculture facilities shall be located to avoid significant adverse impacts on critical saltwater and critical freshwater habitats. When water depth is less than 75 feet, locate at least 300 feet down-current and 150 feet in all other directions from critical habitats. When water depth is greater than 75 feet, locate at least 150 feet from critical habitats.

**Comment 1:** What is the "critical habitat" to which this regulation refers? Is it critical habitat designated under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)? If so, we strongly recommend that the County refrain from creating another hurdle and one-size-fits all approach to finfish culture. The ESA requires that consultation occur including impacts to listed species and critical habitats. This is yet another example the County entering a regulatory area in which is lacks sufficient expertise. Moreover, the basis for the above distance requirements

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area unclear. What scientific literature supports the provision? Further, aside for the requirements of the ESA, the SEPA and NEPA process would also come into play to evaluate and consider environmental effects of any particular proposal. Any significant adverse impacts to the environment can then be minimized or mitigated. A "one-size-fits-all" approach such as proposed here is harmful to aquaculture, does not reasonably foster all appropriate and reasonable uses as required under the SMA and does not reasonably accommodate water dependent uses. The provision is unduly and unreasonably restricted and is not supported by sound science. Therefore, it violates the SMA and APA

**Draft Regulation 3.2.3.10. k** When there is increased risk of interbreeding or establishment of naturalized populations of the cultured species that *would in conflict* [sic]with native stocks, only sterile or monosexual fish shall be allowed.

**Comment 1:** The SEPA and NEPA process should be use to assess the environmental effects of any particular proposal. Any significant adverse impacts to the environment can then be minimized or mitigated. A "one-size-fits-all" approach such as proposed here is harmful to aquaculture, does not reasonably foster all appropriate and reasonable uses as required under the SMA and does not reasonably accommodate water dependent uses. The provision is unduly and unreasonably restricted and is not supported by sound science.

Moreover, it is not so much the risk that a cultured population may interbreed with a native fish species, it is the risk that significant adverse effects may occur. This depends on several factors, including how genetically different the two stocks might be, the length of time that might be required for the native stock to recover, assuming there are significant adverse consequences, and

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this, in turn, will depend on the size of the escaping population relative to the wild population, along with other factors. In addition, this provision is very vague and uncertain: What qualifies as an "increased risk of interbreeding"? Increased above what level? What qualifies as "increased risk of . . . establishment of naturalized populations of the cultured species that *would in conflict* [sic]with native stocks"? (Presumably the "in" was inserted erroneously). When would a naturalized population be in conflict with native stocks? This provision is not well thought out and should be eliminated. As noted, the better approach would be to address such matters through the SEPA and NEPA process.

**Draft Regulation 3.2.3.10. I.** In-water finfish aquaculture facilities shall locate sufficiently distant from river mouths where wild fish are known to be most vulnerable to genetic degradation, as determined on a case-by-case basis with State guidance.

This provision assumes that there is a relationship between siting a finfish facility near a river mouth and negative effects to the genetic structure of wild fish populations and it presupposes that wild fish populations are "most vulnerable" at "river mouths". We are simply unaware of any literature to support either supposition. What data or evidence supports these suppositions. We would appreciate being made aware of the peer reviewed scientific literature to support the imbedded assumptions. As noted in prior testimony, we believe that wild fish are indeed important resources and should be conserved. However, we believe such issues are best addressed in the context of NEPA and SEPA analyses that will necessarily result from applications for net pen aquaculture. For these reasons, we believe this provisions should be eliminated from the draft.

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**Draft Regulation 3.2.3.10. n.** In-water finfish aquaculture facilities shall locate offshore a minimum of 1,500 feet from ordinary high water mark, or a minimum of 2,000 feet when higher density residential development is present along the adjacent upland.

Presumably this provision is based on the desire to minimize aesthetic effects. Again, we note that there are other provisions in the regulations that address visual and aesthetic effects. We recommend that the County avoid a one-size-fits all approach to siting finfish facilities. Further, as noted elsewhere, the SEPA and NEPA processes are designed to evaluate and assess such issues and devise methods to minimize and mitigate significant adverse impacts. For these reasons, we believe the provision should be stricken. Doing so will provide flexibility and will not prevent such conditions from being adopted during the permitting process in instances where it is reasonable to do so.

**Draft Regulation 3.2.3.10. o.** Facilities shall be designed and located so that the surface area of individual operations does not exceed 2 acres of surface coverage and no more than one operation per square nautical mile.

This provision presupposes that the 2 acres surface area per square nautical mile results in significant adverse impacts. What data or studies support such a conclusion? We are simply unaware of any literature to support either supposition. We would appreciate being made aware of the peer reviewed scientific literature to support the imbedded assumptions.

Based on our knowledge of in-water finfish aquaculture facilities this provision will effectively prohibit such facilities. It is not economically feasible to establish operations with this density or area limitation. This provision violates the SMA and APA because it is irrational, not supported by science and does not

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promote reasonable and appropriate uses or water dependent uses. Moreover, we believe such issues are best addressed in the context of NEPA and SEPA analyses that will necessarily result from applications for net pen aquaculture. For these reasons, we believe this provisions should be eliminated from the draft.

**Draft Regulation 3.2.3.10. o.** All in-water finfish aquaculture facility proposals shall submit to the County an operations plan that includes projections for: (items a through j).

We questions whether the information requirements which are substantial are truly needed by the County and whether they will be used. The reports at issue are a huge amount of paperwork. As an example, of what importance is it to the County at what size fish may be harvested? Or the source of eggs or juveniles? These issues are all controlled by state and federal agencies. While reporting requirements alone will not prohibit such faculties, they are yet another hurdle, another burden, and are simply indicative of the reason Chile imports \$500 million worth of salmon to the US while all the supporting jobs and economic development are created in that Country. ,Will the County require poultry and cattle operations who may operate adjacent to the shoreline to submit similar reports? This provision and others reflect the County's antipathy towards finfish aquaculture.

## **Conclusions.**

In conclusion, we believe the County's SMP represents a great deal of work and an improvement from the prior draft. However, we continue to conclude that many provisions in the Draft SMP are unnecessary, duplicative, burdensome, and taken on the whole reflect a continuing misunderstanding of and antipathy towards finfish aquaculture. The County SMP will as noted continue to

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exacerbate the \$10 billion trade deficit in fish and fish products, deprive consumers of healthy seafood products and correspondingly and incrementally adversely affect human health, forego substantial employment and economic development opportunities that could substantially benefit the County's tax rolls and overall economic health. We believe that many provisions of the SMP as they relate to in-water finfish aquaculture are unlawful. For these reasons, we believe the SMP need further substantial revision. Should you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Dentler", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Dentler  
Director, Government Relations  
Troutlodge

Jeffree Stewart, Ecology  
Laura Hoberect, NMFS

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.oie.int/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.webmd.com/healthy-aging/omega-3-fatty-acids-fact-sheet?page=2>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines/dga2005/report/html/table\\_g2\\_adda2.htm](http://www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines/dga2005/report/html/table_g2_adda2.htm)

<sup>4</sup> [http://seafoodhealthfacts.org/seafood\\_choices/salmon.php](http://seafoodhealthfacts.org/seafood_choices/salmon.php)

<sup>5</sup> See <http://www.farmfreshsalmon.org/efficient-protein-production-aquaculture>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/94232/icode/>

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2011/20110711\\_aquaculture.html](http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2011/20110711_aquaculture.html);

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<sup>8</sup> [http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2011/20110711\\_aquaculture.html](http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2011/20110711_aquaculture.html)

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.globefish.org/salmon-us-february-2011.html>

<sup>10</sup> As noted elsewhere, this species is very valuable and very high in omega-3 fatty acids. Aquaculture production of this species could make the species more affordable to consumers of modest means.

<sup>11</sup> [http://www.fishwatch.gov/seafood\\_profiles/species/cod/species\\_pages/sablefish.htm](http://www.fishwatch.gov/seafood_profiles/species/cod/species_pages/sablefish.htm)

<sup>12</sup> [http://www.fishwatch.gov/seafood\\_profiles/species/cod/species\\_pages/sablefish.htm](http://www.fishwatch.gov/seafood_profiles/species/cod/species_pages/sablefish.htm)

<sup>13</sup> Nash, C.E. and F. W Waknitz (2003) Fisheries Research, (V. 62, No. 3, pp237-254) ( The paper includes a brief description of the 100-year history of federal and state attempts to introduce Atlantic salmon in the Pacific Northwest as well as continued use of Atlantic salmon by state fish and wildlife agencies.)