

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

Environmental impacts of salmon farming

Written submission from Jules Michel

I would like to respectfully submit the following for consideration:

1. I take strong issue with the implication that RAS systems are likely to be unimportant through the next decade (discussion of Section 8, p. iv). Atlantic Sapphire and Nordic Aquafarms are investing hundreds of millions of dollars in the USA alone to rapidly bring on significant production through RAS systems. These operations are implementing alternative energy systems and easily handle the waste produced. More importantly, there is a sea change of public opinion on these operations taking place. Washington State's cancelling leases to Cooke Aquaculture is only the beginning of a large level of resistance to salmon raised in this manner.

2. I would like to submit for consideration a letter recently written to NOAA in the US about funding of open pen operations being premature, if not illegal. The letter details the very real impacts to the marine ecosystems which these operations create. It will help shed light on what was mentioned above, that there is a sea change of public opinion occurring. Further, because of our modern means of communicating, it is a change which is occurring at a pace far quicker than people understand.

Read letter here: <https://1bps6437gg8c169i0y1drtgz-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/2018-1-23-NOAA-Unlawful-Funding-Letter.pdf>

3. Finally, I would like to comment on the industry in general. My family has been in the timber industry for generations. At one point in time my ancestors could go into the forest, cut whatever they wanted to whenever they wanted to believing they were both providing a needed product (trees for lumber) and bringing nature under control. It was a model which forever altered ecosystems in a negative way. That model has changed - cutting requires an environment review before action takes place; protection of habitat for other species is considered; and plans are implemented with a long term view, spanning generation into the future. The current aquaculture industry is no different than my grandfather who cared little for the environment because it was so vast. Those times are gone and this industry needs to accept that reality. More importantly, regulators need to stand up to them for the rest of us.