

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners
Philip Morley, County Administrator

FROM: Julie Shannon, Executive Assistant

DATE: April 16, 2012

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. _____ re: Support of Placing a Moratorium on Atlantic Salmon Fish Farms in the Coastal Waters of Washington State

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:


A Resolution in support of placing a Moratorium on Atlantic Salmon Fish Farms in the Coastal Waters of Washington State.

On January 16, 2012, Commissioners moved to support this Resolution. Commissioner Johnson has requested this Resolution be placed on Agenda for final approval

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Resolution re: Support of Placing a Moratorium on Atlantic Salmon Fish Farms in the Coastal Waters of Washington State

REVIEWED BY:


Philip Morley, County Administrator

4/11/12
Date

STATE OF WASHINGTON
County of Jefferson

In the Matter of Support of Placing a Moratorium }
on Atlantic Salmon Fish Farms in }
the Coastal Waters of Washington State } **RESOLUTION NO.** _____

WHEREAS, Both commercial and recreational native salmon fisheries are major industries in Washington State; and,

WHEREAS, Millions of federal, state and local dollars have been spent over the past decade on restoration projects throughout the coastal waters of the state in an effort to restore native salmon stock listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act; and,

WHEREAS, Hundreds of citizen volunteers have donated thousands of hours toward the restoration of native salmon runs; and,

WHEREAS, The Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) and its Action Agenda were created to expand and enhance that restoration effort; and,

WHEREAS, The PSP's task, as proposed by Governor Gregoire, is to ensure "that the Sound will forever be a thriving natural system with clean marine and fresh waters, healthy and abundant native species, natural shoreline and places for public enjoyment and vibrant economy that prospers in productive harmony with a healthy sound"; and,

WHEREAS, WAC-173-26-201 (3)(E)(iii) requires that County's Shoreline Master Program (SMP) "shall achieve no net loss of ecological function and address the cumulative impacts on shoreline ecological function that would result from future shoreline development and uses that are reasonably foreseeable"; and,

WHEREAS, All of the environmental challenges to aquaculture listed in NOAA's Draft Aquaculture Policy (Feb. 2011), to wit "nutrient and chemical wastes, water use demands, aquatic animal diseases and invasive species, effects on protected and sensitive marine areas, potential competition and genetic effects on wild species, effect on endangered or protected species, effects on habitat for other species, and use of forage fish for aquaculture feeds", are all risks related to Atlantic Salmon Fish Farms; and,

WHEREAS, WAC173-26-201 (2)(f) states that SMP's "be designed to achieve overall improvements to ecological functions over time when compared to the status upon adoption"; and,

WHEREAS, 173-26-201 (3)(f)(111)(c) States that Shoreline ecological functions in marine waters include "removing excessive nutrients and toxic compounds"; and,

WHEREAS, The Highly contagious and lethal infectious Salmon Anemia (ISA) Virus has been discovered in juvenile Sockeye Smolt in British Columbia; and,

Resolution No. re: Support of Placing a Moratorium on Atlantic Salmon Fish Farms in Puget Sound

WHEREAS, The virus discovered tested positive to the European strain of ISA and is therefore almost certain to have originated from Atlantic Salmon Fish Farms; and,

WHEREAS, No country has gotten rid of the ISA Virus once the Virus arrives; and,

WHEREAS, the Department of Ecology has determined Atlantic Salmon Fish Farms be allowed based on WAC 173-26-241 that gives preference to water dependent use; and,

WHEREAS, WAC 173-26-020 defines "water dependent use" as a use or a portion of a use which cannot exist in a location that is not adjacent to the water and which is dependent on the water by reason of the intrinsic nature of its operation; and,

WHEREAS, Upland tank fish farms with properly treated wastewater equipment can exist in locations not within or adjacent to the water and therefore satisfies WAC 173-26-020; and,

WHEREAS, Washington State Environmental Policy Act of 1971 (SEPA) RCW Chapter 43.21c states that "Master Program shall indicate that, where required, mitigation shall be applied in the following sequence of steps in order of priority with (e)(i)(A) of this subsection being top priority (A) avoiding the act altogether by not taking a certain action."

WHEREAS, Resolution #02-78 adopted at the 2002 49th annual conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, (comprised of American Indians in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California and Alaska) states that the "...Pacific Northwest Tribes oppose the establishment of Commercial Marine Farmed Atlantic Salmon Pens in our region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, based on the precautionary principal, we urge the Governor to place a moratorium on all new in water fin fish net pen aquaculture for Atlantic Salmon in the coastal waters of Washington State until there is a peer reviewed science based plan in place to ensure that there is no risk to native salmon runs.

APPROVED and signed this ____ day of _____, 2012.

SEAL:

JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

John Austin, Chair

David Sullivan, Member

Raina Randall
Deputy Clerk of the Board

Phil Johnson, Member