

Banning Expansion of Private Aquaculture in State and Federal Waters

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4 **WHEREAS**, our marine waters and natural resources are managed for public benefit by
5 state and federal agencies under various laws and regulations; and
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7 **WHEREAS**, we have an obligation under the public trust doctrine to ensure that
8 sustainable use preserves water quality and natural resources for future generations;
9 and
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11 **WHEREAS**, the people of Washington State have entrusted their elected officials to
12 protect our natural assets and resources; and
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14 **WHEREAS**, there are numerous concerns regarding the environmental, economic,
15 social, and health impacts of industrial aquaculture, including but not limited to: spread
16 of diseases and parasites, entrapment and death of marine mammals and birds;
17 introduction of non-native species; colonization of wild fish habitat; net loss of ocean
18 productivity; lack of containment of antibiotics, pesticides, algaecides and fish waste;
19 conflicts with commercial and recreational marine activities; and
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21 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Commerce is promoting the "National Offshore
22 Aquaculture Act of 2007, House Bill 2010" that allows privately owned fish feedlots in
23 our federally managed waters, three to 200 miles offshore; and
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25 **WHEREAS**, scientific assessments of risks and impacts, as required by the National
26 Environmental Policy Act, have not been prepared prior to introduction of this
27 legislation to Congress; and
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29 **WHEREAS**, a socio-economic assessment of impacts on fisheries dependent
30 communities, businesses or tribes has not been prepared; and
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32 **WHEREAS**, H.R. 2010 would only allow states to "opt out" to twelve miles, so
33 Washington's ban on production of genetically engineered fish would be circumvented;
34 and
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36 **WHEREAS**, the Washington State Democratic Central Committee has unanimously
37 passed previous resolutions opposing open ocean aquaculture and calling for the
38 preparation of a legislative environmental impact statement; and
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40 **WHEREAS**, the WSDCC platform states that "We oppose open-cage, polluting fin fish
41 farms of carnivorous species in our marine waters";
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43 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Party
44 (WSDCC) respectfully requests our elected officials to call for a moratorium or ban on
45 expansion of privately owned, industrial aquaculture operations in state and federal
46 waters; and

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48 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that our state ban on production of
49 genetically engineered fish is upheld in federally managed waters.

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51 Copies of this resolution shall be sent Senator Maria Cantwell, Senator Patty Murray
52 and members of Washington's Congressional delegation.

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55 Submitted by the Progressive Caucus to the Washington State Democratic Central
56 Committee for consideration at its April 28, 2007 meeting in Bellingham. (Date
57 Submitted 4/24/2007)

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59 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee "RECOMMENDED A PASS" on this resolution at
60 its April 28, 2007 meeting in Bellingham.

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62 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its April 28, 2007 meeting in Bellingham.