

Moratorium on Fish Pens

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3 **WHEREAS** the commercial and recreational salmon fishing activities are both
4 providing economic benefits to Washington State;

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6 **WHEREAS** millions of dollars (federal, state and local) have been spent during the past
7 decade on projects addressing the coastal waters of the state in efforts to protect native
8 salmon stock listed as threatened or endangered by the Endangered Species Act;

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10 **WHEREAS** hundreds of citizen volunteers have donated thousands of hours to
11 restoration of native salmon runs;

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13 **WHEREAS** the Puget Sound Partnership and its Action Agenda were both created to
14 expand and enhance the restoration efforts;

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16 **WHEREAS** the task of the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) is to “ensure” (as endorsed
17 by Governor Christine Gregoire in the preamble to the PSP) that the Sound will forever
18 be a thriving, natural system with clean marine and fresh waters, healthy and abundant
19 native species, natural shoreline and places for public enjoyment and vibrant economy
20 that prospers in productive harmony with a healthy Sound;

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22 **WHEREAS** WAC-173-26-201 (3)(E)(iii) requires that County's Shoreline Master
23 Programs “shall achieve no net loss of ecological function and address the cumulative
24 impacts on shoreline ecological function that would result from future shoreline
25 development and uses that are reasonably foreseeable”;

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

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34 **WHEREAS** WAC173-26-201 (2)(f) states that SMPs “be designed to achieve overall
35 improvements to ecological functions over time when compared to the status upon
36 adoption”;

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38 **WHEREAS** WAC 173-26-201 (3)(f)(111)(c) states that shoreline ecological functions in
39 marine waters include “removing excessive nutrients and toxic compounds”;

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41 **WHEREAS** the indication of a highly contagious and lethal Infectious Salmon Anemia
42 (ISA) virus has been discovered in juvenile Sockeye Smolt in British Columbia;

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44 **WHEREAS** that virus, discovered in Canada, tested positive to the European strain of
45 ISA and suggests there is a likelihood of it having originated from Atlantic Salmon Fish
46 Farms;

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48 **WHEREAS** no country has gotten rid of the ISA virus once the virus arrives; and

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50 **WHEREAS** Washington State Environmental Policy Act of 1971 (SEPA) RCW Chapter
51 43.21c states that: "Master Program shall indicate that, where required, mitigation shall
52 be applied in the following sequence of steps in order of priority with (e)(i)(A) of this
53 subsection being top priority - (A) avoiding the act altogether by not taking a certain
54 action";

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56 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Central
57 Committee, recognizing the significance and validity of the precautionary principle,
58 submit this resolution and to urge the Governor to issue a moratorium on all new in-
59 water fin fish net-pen aquaculture for Atlantic Salmon in the Coastal waters of
60 Washington State until there is peer-reviewed evidence in place ensuring there is
61 essentially no risk to native salmon runs.

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64 Submitted by the Agriculture and Rural Caucus to the Washington State Democratic
65 Central Committee for consideration at its January 28, 2012 meeting in Shelton. (Date
66 Submitted 1/28/2012)

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68 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee "AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND
69 RECOMMENDED A PASS" at its January 28, 2012 meeting in Shelton.

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71 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its January 28, 2012 meeting in Shelton.