



**STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY**

Southwest Region Office
PO Box 47775, Olympia, WA 98504-7775 • 360-407-6300

July 26, 2023

Kevin Bright
Email: Kevin.Bright@cookeaqua.com
Cooke Aquaculture Pacific, LLC
PO Box 669
Anacortes, WA 98221

Re: Warning Letter – Fort Ward, NPDES Permit No. WA0031534

Dear Kevin Bright:

On July 12, 2023, I received a citizen complaint regarding the Fort Ward Net Pen facility associated dock. Photo documentation showed a crane that hoisted a boat on the dock, which is over water, and staff pressure washed the bottom of the boat. This action is prohibited as it creates a discharge of untreated wastewater from the cleaning of the boat into surface waters of the state beneath the dock. As has been stated in the past in the notice of violation (#14303) dated September 1, 2017, these unpermitted discharges of pressure washing wastewater to waters of the state are illicit and consequently a violation of 90.48.080 and 90.48.160 of the Revised Code of Washington.

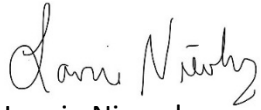
On July 13, 2023, I spoke with you twice, once in the morning at 8:42 a.m. to share that we received the complaint and again at 12:31 p.m. to follow up on next steps. In the later phone call, you communicated you talked to the specific staff reiterating that no boat pressure washing is to occur on the dock and identified that there are signs posted reminding staff. I request that you follow up with a report of your actions you communicated to me, any subsequent actions such a follow up communication with staff via email, and photos documenting all the signs posted.

I understand at this time you are working to remove net pen gear such as anchors from the Rich Passage sites plus the feed barge located at Clam Bay. During this transition time as you prepare to vacate the lease sites, please increase, or remind staff of your permit requirements and prohibited activities to prevent illicit surface water discharges at the Fort Ward dock area.

Please submit your report and anything else regarding your corrective actions at laurie.niewolny@ecy.wa.gov. If you have any questions, use email, or call me at (360) 584-8852. Thank you.

Kevin Bright
July 26, 2023
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laurie Niewolny".

Laurie Niewolny
Aquaculture Specialist and Permit Manager
Southwest Region Office
Water Quality Program

ecc: Jonathon Drygas, Ecology
Andrew Kolosseus, Ecology
Sean Carlson, DNR
Permit file WA0031534
ERTS file #724040