

ERTS Incident #724040

Environmental Report Tracking - Generated 8/7/2023, 10:55 AM

Primary Initial Report - Reported: 07/12/23 14:19

Reference ID - 214540

Where did it happen?

Location name: Cooke Dock Bainbridge
Physical address: Bainbridge Island WA
US
County: Kitsap
Ecology region: NWRO
Lat, long:
Directions/Landmarks:

Address not provided.

What happened?

Incident date: 07/12/23
Activity: Cleaning
Cause:
Medium: Water - Puget Sound
Source: Facility - Other-Facility
Substance: Water - Water
Substance amount:

Who might be responsible?

Name:
Organization:
Cooke Aquaculture
Email:
Phone number(s):
Mailing address:

How was it reported?

Intake type: Email
Reported date: 07/12/23 14:19
Entered by: Kelli Price
Entered at: 07/12/23 14:32

Who reported it?

Do they want this to be confidential? No

Reporter type:
Citizen
Name:
Kathleen Hansen
Organization:
Email:
kathy.hansen206@gmail.com
Phone number(s):
Mailing address:
Are they anonymous? No
Are they self-reporting? No
External reference number:

Comments/notes

Today, we observed Cooke lift a boat from the water via crane around 8:30 am. whose underside was covered with green. Later that morning we heard what sounded like pressure washing and were able to capture the attached video that confirms the pressure washing of the boat over water on the dock. This type of pressure washing of equipment over water is expressly prohibited in Cooke's current NPDES page 22: n. The Permittee may not pressure wash any portion of the net pen structure or any equipment, docks, barges, or other apparatus associated with the operation of the facility, if the water from pressure washing could enter waters of the state. In situ washing of the stock nets and predator exclusion nets is the only permitted use of pressure washing.

Hours later, the boat was moved to a different location. (photo attached)

As you know, Cooke has been warned, received non compliance notifications, a notice of violation and an Administrative Order and Notice of Penalty from Ecology.

1. An August 25, 2016 Warning Letter from the Department of Ecology
2. A July 24, 2017 Illicit discharge non compliance notification from Ecology
3. An August 23, 2017 Notice of Violation
4. A December 12, 2017 Administrative Order and Notice of Penalty

The \$8,000 fine that Cooke received was for:

- Unlawfully discharging polluting matter into state waters.
- Pressure washing equipment, nets, and vehicles over the water and allowing wastewater to enter Puget Sound.
- Changing boat engine oil over the water.
- Failing to put safeguards in place to protect water quality.
- Failing to correct water quality violations when directed.

It appears that a pattern of behavior continues despite warnings and fines. Some of the workers at the Bainbridge location have been here for decades along with the permit coordinator who now also functions as the Cooke GM.

What is the consequence for continuing to violate the NPDES permit?

Incident details

Life cycle status: Follow-up assigned
Incident Date: 07/12/23
Was it self-reported?: No
Show to public?: No

Location

Location name: Cooke Dock Bainbridge
Physical Address: Bainbridge Island WA
US
County: Kitsap
Lat, long:

Program owners

Molly Bocian (Primary)
NWRO - Water Quality
Comments:

Who might be responsible?

Name:
Organization:
Cooke Aquaculture
Email:
Phone number(s):
Mailing address:

Follow-ups

Program: Water Quality - Subject: Facility - Fish Hatchery
Reference ID - 222728

What happened?

Primary activity

Activity:

Action history

Status	Action	Date
Accepted	Follow-up ownership accepted	07/13/2023 16:12:51

Cleaning

Status	Action	Date
Started	Follow-up owner assigned	07/12/2023 15:22:04

Primary cause

Cause:

Human error - Failure to read or follow labeling

Primary detail

Medium:

Water - Surface Water-Marine

Source:

Substance:

Substance amount:

Comments

Comment about update

08/07/2023 10:48:20

Created By: Laurie Niewolny

Permittee was reminded through warning letter about not cleaning boat hulls on dock. Documented corrective actions.

Stand alone comment

08/07/2023 10:43:28

Created By: Laurie Niewolny

Permittee response after initial call by permit manager. Manager sent warning letter and requested documentation of corrective actions.

Follow-up owners

Status	Organization	First name	Last name	Is external?	Email	Phone number	Comments
Accepted	WA Ecology	Laurie	Niewolny	N	LNIE461@ecy.wa.gov	(360) 584-8852	

Incident attachments

Contact Ecology if you would like a copy of any of these attachments

File name	File description	Section/Reference ID	Date uploaded
Unpermitted pressure washing of equipment over water--Cooke Dock Bainbridge.msg	Emailed report with photo and video	Initial report - 214540	07/12/2023
Re Unpermitted pressure washing of equipment over water--Cooke Dock Bainbridge.msg	Additional email from reporting party with document from Cooke Aquaculture's attorney (received 7/12/23)	Incident details	07/12/2023
20230712_Pressure_washingBoat.mp4	Video of incident	Incident details	07/12/2023

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File name	File description	Section/Reference ID	Date uploaded
20230712_FishFarm_PressurewashedBoat_DSC01896-HDR.JPG	Photo of incident	Incident details	07/12/2023
Image_Posted Sign.jpeg	Photo of sign posted in breakroom identifying that boats are not to be washed at dock	Follow-up - 222728	08/07/2023
boat washing warning letter response from Cooke 080423.pdf	Written response by Permittee on corrective actions.	Follow-up - 222728	08/07/2023
Cooke FtWard WarnLetter 07132023 LAN.pdf	Warning Letter	Follow-up - 222728	08/07/2023
Email with boat washing warning letter July 2023.pdf	Email with PDF letter indicating the boat washing activity is not allowed and to report corrective actions.	Follow-up - 222728	07/26/2023