

CLEARANCES		Date	Date Received in Council Office	Agenda Date	Assigned To
Orig. Dept.:	County Council	5/7/2002		5/7/2002	Introduction
Division Head:				5/21	NR
Dept. Head:				6/4	NR
Prosecutor:				7/16	NR
Budget:				7/30	NR
Executive:				8/13	NR / COUNCIL

SUBJECT:

Resolution supporting moratorium on marine salmon net pens.

ATTACHMENTS

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

Related County Contract #:	Should the Clerk schedule a hearing? (Y/N)	Requested Date:
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Resolution supporting a moratorium on marine salmon net pens and support of wild salmon fisheries.

RECOMMENDED MOTION (for final action):

COUNCIL ACTION TAKEN

- 2002 - 202 5/7/2002: Introduced
- 5/21/2002: Held in Natural Resources committee to 6/4
- 6/4/2002: Held in Natural Resources committee to July 16
- 7/16/2002: Held in Natural Resources committee to August
- 8/13/2002: Approved 5-2, Crawford, Nelson opposed, Res. #2002-036

Related File Numbers:

Ordinance or Resolution Number (this item only):

RES. # 2002-036

PROPOSED BY: McShane

SPONSORED BY: Consent

INTRODUCED: 5/7/02

RESOLUTION NO. 2002-036

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A MORATORIUM ON COMMERCIAL
MARINE SALMON NET PENS AND IN SUPPORT OF WILD SALMON FISHERIES**

WHEREAS, residents of Whatcom County have made significant sacrifices and forgone harvest opportunity and restrictions on land and water use; and

WHEREAS, residents have volunteered considerable time, money, and resources to the restoration of native salmon runs; and

WHEREAS, various economic sectors in Whatcom County such as the recreational and tourism businesses, fishing industry, and fisheries depend on healthy wild fish populations; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Pollution Control Hearings Board has determined that escapement of introduced Atlantic salmon are a serious biological pollutant under the Federal Clean Water Act and the State's Water Pollution Control Act, Chapter 90.48, RCW; and

WHEREAS, farmed salmon pose a threat to wild salmon stocks through the use of antibiotics to treat net pens, causing an increase of antibiotic resistant bacteria in a marine environment; and

WHEREAS, scientific evidence indicates marine net pens degrade the marine environment through impacts to water quality, sediment quality, and the health of benthic and pelagic organisms; and

WHEREAS, scientific studies have shown that Atlantic salmon are capable of competing with native fish species for increasingly scarce quality habitat; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife reports that over 500,000 Atlantic salmon have escaped from net pens into Washington State's waters in the last decade and even larger numbers of Atlantic salmon have escaped into British Columbia's waters; and

WHEREAS, recent scientific evidence documents the presence of Atlantic salmon in 78 rivers and streams in British Columbia, and spawning populations have been documented in three Vancouver Island rivers; and

WHEREAS, the goals of federal, state, and local salmon recovery efforts are jeopardized by the negative impacts of commercial marine salmon net pens; and

WHEREAS, currently there are no commercial marine salmon net pens operating in Whatcom County and precautionary approaches to marine habitat protection are in the county's best interest;

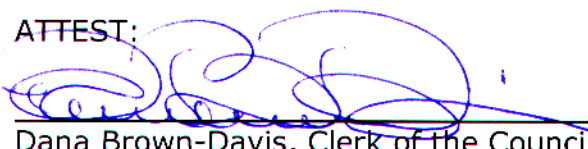
WHEREAS, Atlantic salmon have been observed in the Nooksack River.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Whatcom County Council opposes the establishment of commercial marine salmon net pens in Whatcom County waters and the waters of the Pacific Northwest.

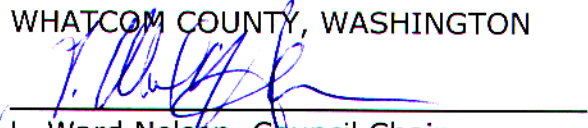
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that for purposes of this resolution commercial is defined as "the rearing of fish for profit."

APPROVED this 13 day of August, 2002.

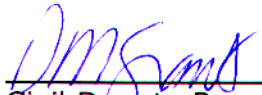
ATTEST:


Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON


L. Ward Nelson, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Civil Deputy Prosecutor