

Aquaculture Summary of Written Public Comment

As of Friday afternoon (7/26/07), written comments received to date on the public hearing document for the Aquaculture Amendment include 1393 e-mails and letters. Of those, 1379 are asking the Council to:

- ❖ Make clear non-native and genetically modified species are prohibited for use in ocean fish farming
- ❖ Prevent farming of endangered or threatened species and species of concern
- ❖ Protect essential habitat and fishing ground by requiring buffer zones
- ❖ Require compensation for use of public resources for private profit that will conflict with and possibly prevent other uses
- ❖ Have strict environmental requirements about pollution and harm to habitat and wildlife
- ❖ Prevent using oil rigs for aquaculture
- ❖ Discuss the of potential aquaculture harming other marine wildlife by using prey species in feed

Six letters contain similar comments and requests that the Council:

- ❖ Restrict the use of wild-caught fish in aquaculture feed
- ❖ Protect essential habitat & fishing grounds by requiring buffer zones
- ❖ Incorporate explicit environmental requirements to eliminate pollution and prevent harm to habitat and wildlife
- ❖ Prevent fish farming on decommissioned oil rigs
- ❖ Prohibit the farming of protected species

One very detailed letter was received (a second copy was received with seven signatures representing seven organizations) outlining some of these same concerns as well as concerns about:

- ❖ exclusion zones for competing interests
- ❖ escapement issues
- ❖ mitigation plans for hazards, stocking
- ❖ unexpected environmental harm and abandonment
- ❖ water pollution

Four letters expressing general concern, and two explaining the hazards of aquaculture were also received.

Samples of the correspondence are included in your briefing book and copies of all letters are available for review.