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April 29, 2019

Cooke Aquaculture Pacific agrees to pay \$332,000 penalty with 80% dedicated to Washington State fisheries enhancement

(OLYMPIA, Washington) Cooke Aquaculture Pacific's Vice President of Public Relations, Joel Richardson, provided the following statement after a \$332,000 (USD) settlement agreement was reached between the company and the Washington Department of Ecology for the unfortunate collapse of its floating fish farm pen near Cypress Island:

"Cooke Aquaculture Pacific was not interested in going through the hearing, putting additional stress on our employees, and reliving the regretful events of August 2017. When presented with the opportunity to dedicate 80% of the penalty (\$265,600 USD) to a supplemental environmental project, Cooke made the decision to not litigate the penalty amount, and instead dedicate its resources to a project that will directly result in fisheries enhancement in the North Puget Sound region. Cooke is actively working on identifying such a project and partners in enhancing fisheries in North Puget Sound.

We understand that our relationship with the environment is vital to producing top quality seafood. Cooke Aquaculture Pacific will continue to work with local communities, tribes, and regulators, and we are investing in upgrading operations and equipment. We view this as a significant component of our corporate social responsibility and we are committed to farming sustainably in Washington state as we do in other locations globally."

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