



Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform

MAY 2011

RE: Agrimarine Middle Bay Closed Containment Salmon Farm

The Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform is a coalition of environmental and science advocacy groups working to ensure salmon farming in British Columbia does not adversely impact wild salmon, marine ecosystems or human health and continues to provide economic benefits to coastal communities. Our work is focused on identifying and promoting solutions to the impacts of salmon farming.

We are writing to express our support for the Agrimarine Middle Bay Closed Containment salmon farm. We have reviewed the details of this project and we visited the site in early May 2011 after the initial stocking of juvenile Chinook salmon.

We believe the Middle Bay operation shows there are real, viable alternative methods to dealing with the proven environmental impacts of open net pen aquaculture and will be a valuable contribution towards demonstrating the effectiveness and economics of closed containment fish farming. This particular project has a floating solid wall tank that allows fecal material and waste feed to be channelled into a solid waste separator that will prevent these materials from polluting the surrounding ecosystem. The Agrimarine system will also employ a water intake that can be set at variable depths to allow water to be drawn from below the level of algae blooms and ideally, will avoid sea lice being drawn into the farm. More importantly, the Chinook salmon they are growing have been shown to have a particular resistance to sea lice compared to other species of salmon. Agrimarine believes that they will be able to grow their Chinook to harvest size without the need for chemical sea lice treatments or antibiotics. Predator interactions or kills will likely be completely avoided as will farmed salmon escapes.

With the potential to reduce or eliminate almost all environmental impacts associated with salmon farming in the marine environment, we are glad to give strong support to this project. We look forward to final results from the Middle Bay initiative's first production cycle and to future assessments or certifications of the sustainability of salmon produced in this innovative system.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David Lane'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'David' and last name 'Lane' clearly legible.

David Lane

On behalf of the Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform

Member groups: David Suzuki Foundation, Georgia Strait Alliance, Living Oceans Society, T. Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation, Watershed Watch