

## **SITUATION UPDATE – COOKE AQUACULTURE**

***Friday, Sept. 1***

On Friday, Cooke Aquaculture crews continued to deconstruct damaged net pen array two, removing two more nets and multiple outriggers and walkways. Dismantled cage equipment was offloaded from the crane barge and made available for inspection by Unified Incident Command and tribal government representatives at the Port of Anacortes.

At the same time, full-scale transfer operations of extracted fish were begun. This work is also being conducted at the Port of Anacortes and transfer was observed by representatives of the Unified Incident Command and other interested parties.

A local recycling company – Lautenbach Industries – has been engaged to transport the fish material to facilities that specialize in recycling waste and generating renewable energy. At these facilities, anaerobic digesters break down materials (pre-consumer food products) and utilize them in several ways. During the breakdown of materials, methane is created and utilized as a renewable energy source and the electricity generated by that methane is returned to the power grid. Remaining liquid and solid materials are used by local farmers as fertilizer and soil enhancers. The company is working with neighbors of the port to ensure there is minimal impact on activities in the surrounding area. This work could be completed as early as Saturday.

The total number of fish recovered from the damaged farm site is now 142,176.

Water quality samples are being conducted daily at locations alongside the farm site and outside the site - and show no adverse effects. Results are being provided daily to the Unified Incident Command.

Tribal, commercial and recreational fishers continue to recapture fish that escaped the enclosure and Washington's Department of Fish and Wildlife is collecting data on those catches.

Catches can be reported online here: [http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/salmon/atlantic\\_catch\\_map.php](http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/salmon/atlantic_catch_map.php)