INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
Q=[redacted]
A=[redacted]

Q: Uh, today's date is April 26, 2018. Time now of 10:01 am. Uh, on the telephone is [redacted], uh - uh - a- uh, a [redacted] and I'm [redacted] with EPA CID. Uh, [redacted], are you familiar with this recording being done?

A: Yes.

Q: Are you in agreement with that?

A: Yes.

Q: Okay so let's just start off with some basic stuff. Uh, [redacted] do you mind if I call you [redacted]?

A: No keep going.

Q: If I'm saying it incorrectly please correct me. [redacted].

A: It is correct.

Q: Okay good, uh, [redacted] when did you start working for Cooke or the companies that were pri- that owned the net pens in Cyprus Island prior to that?

[redacted] A: Uh, yeah, I [redacted].

Q: Okay.

A: [redacted].

Q: Okay.

A: And if I don't remember wrong Cooke Aqua bought the company in [redacted]

[redacted] around then.

Q: Okay.

A: Uh, and then was, you know, transfer to - to Cooke - Cooke Aqua, you know company.

Q: Sure.

A: (Unintelligible).

Q: Sure what is your - what was your position when you started with the companies?

A: Uh, [redacted].

Q: Okay [redacted]. Can you give me a - uh, is that- is that...

A: [redacted].

Q: [redacted] yes thank you. Uh, can you tell me, uh, did your job change between the day you started and the day you ended in terms of what - what you were doing?

A: The core didn't change but I was added, uh, I think around [redacted] I was, eh, I took the - took the [redacted] (unintelligible) so I was [redacted] and [redacted]

Q: Okay.

A: And then that area was taken away from me to focus on more on [redacted]

Q: Okay.

A: And then the other aspects were added.

Q: I understand. Can you - can we back up a little bit. Can you give me your education background please?

A: Sure, uh, I guess in terms of superior education, you need to know about school. Uh, right?

Q: Right, right.

A: Yeah, uh I am a [redacted] with a [redacted], uh, from [redacted]. And

that I did between [redacted]. And after that I did a [redacted] in [redacted] in [redacted] too.

Q: Okay so you have - your very familiar with how Aqua Culture works and the process of aqua culture is that correct?

A: Correct. So I work in the salmon industry in the [redacted] for [redacted].

Q: Mm-hm.

A: I was a [redacted] also. And then I work in the (unintelligible). And then after that I moved to [redacted] where I worked for [redacted] in fish farm and then I moved to - to Seattle.

Q: When you were in [redacted] was that for Cooke, or, uh, the company before Cooke as well or was that separate company?

A: It was for Cooke Aquaculture.

Q: Okay.

A: And then I moved three or four - I was there for three years (unintelligible) real quick and then I moved to Seattle to work for Icicle.

Q: Okay, your good. And, uh, and so your entire time with - here in the Seattle area was as the [redacted] basically, correct?

A: That was the core of it when I - I mean of course some of the time, eh, eh, I was taken away from [redacted] when I needed to focus on the h- and the harvest area sorts of thing.

Q: Sure.

A: The plant probably know that.

Q: Okay.

A: But if I say in those particular moments maybe [redacted]

Q: Okay can you give me...

A: But later on...

Q: Oh.

A: ...was just fish health as much.

Q: I understand, sorry to interrupt you there, uh, when you, uh, can you give me like a daily - like what your daily work would have involved what it looked like in a day for you - an average day?

A: Sure, Mm-hm, mm-hm, so for example I, um, I was in communication with the site managers on a weekly or daily basis, eh, to see how the things are going and write up mortality or see any issues or any - anything that can be out of the ordinary.

Q: Yes.

A: And then if something was concern for them - excuse me - eh, I was schedule a visit to the farm to check mortality, check feeding, check water quality or anything that can, um, can tell us, eh, that the fish, for the example behaving in a different way. Maybe we have an algae bloom in the water and this is what's happening in the fish. So I was going there to check that. But if nothing was happening it was a normal day I was also going to - to have a vigilance check, eh, on the fish. So normally when I - I go to the farm I took a little - talk to the site manager or the - the, um, assistant manager or somebody that could help me to understand at what point the farm was. How was the feeding. All the aspects before, uh, going to check the mortality. After I knew, um, about what was really happening on a day-to-day basis on the farm I was following the divers - and - and reviewing and checking all the mortality. Looking for diseases, eh, looking for example - for some signs of stress, um, mainly diseases or - or you know, or any other eh, thing that can, eh, warn - alarm that somethings happening with the fish, you know.

Q: Sure.

A: There was kinda a normal day so after that I check - I did - I did, you know, check all the mortality in the all the cages. I - really, um, like to check all the mortality in all the cages and not just random here and there. All the cages so that way, um, I was able to really have a good picture of what was happening in this whole - one one thousand on the mortality of the fish.

Q: Okay.

A: And then after that, eh, I kinda, uh, I didn't do a summary. But I - I was able to - to tell the farm here. [redacted]. These are my findings, eh, I suspect this is happening. Eh, for example if I, uh, found some skin scrapes so do you have high currents. Yes, eh, do you have any - any manta move a little bit more than normal, yes or no. Or if I was finding,

eh, a specific diseases I was tell you - I was telling them, for example, I came here two weeks ago we didn't find that disease but now it's happening it's not an issue but we need to, you know, maybe extract mortality more often or keep an eye on that specific cage that is showing more of the diseases because it is showing signs of the disease. Um, things like that, you know, (poorly) was a little, eh, advanced diseases we just needed to - to, uh, jump into doing some more actions.

Q: I understand.

A: That was kinda my general, eh, day to day.

Q: Your duties. Right. Okay. Did you have anybody that worked for you?

A: When I was in the harvest area I had one person but not in the fish health, eh, general prospects.

Q: Eh, who was your direct supervisor?

A: My - it was the general manager.

Q: Okay.

A: In [redacted] - w[redacted]. And I was I guess not very effective but it was about over a year while we were still looking for another general manager.

Q: Mm-hm.

A: And when the new general managers came I was, eh, under his direction.

Q: Can you tell me the name of the - of the new general manager that you went under?

A: It was [redacted]

Q: Right. So...

A: [redacted]

Q: Right so you worked for [redacted] I understand.

A: Yeah its [redacted] yeah.

Q: Okay. And how long did you work for [redacted]

A: Uh.

Q: Roughly.

A: I think, uh, I [redacted].

Q: [redacted], okay.

A: Um, in fact I don't remember when he joined. I think he joined in [redacted].

Q: Okay.

A: [redacted]. I - I don't remember exactly.

Q: That's okay, um, and, uh, can you - when you, uh, were as you know, there was, uh, uh, an incident in [redacted] that did - that the United States Government is interested in finding out exactly what happened.

A: Mm-hm.

Q: But we're also interested in another incident that occurred in, uh, July of 2017 just before about a - roughly a month before the - the actual collapse. Are you familiar with the July incident?

A: In some ways, yeah.

Q: Okay. Uh, uh so let's talk about the July incident. What is your knowledge of what happened in July?

A: Uh, the knowledge is - I know about that incident is that the site 2 - the set in site 2 in Cyprus Island.

Q: Yes.

A: I know it was moving one but I knew that it was, eh, more secured on the - on the place.

Q: Uh-huh.

A: Be- and because of some chains were added, eh, the thing that I saw was chains on top of the - the walkway and - and, uh, the I was told that it was more secure now.

Q: Okay. All right so are you aware of, uh, why the site broke loose?

A: Uh, in terms of details? Technical details?

Q: Yeah do you understand why it happened or know why it happened?

A: Um, I - I - I - the only thing I should are you talking about the August one or the July one?

Q: July sir lets s- we'll concentrate on July for right now.

A: Okay. No - no I don't remember exactly why - it broke I mean it broke loose because you know it didn't went away.

Q: Right.

A: Eh, but what was the - the - the incidents around that I'm not familiar because - I mean generally, um, those areas where you pretty much hear because the wolves talk, you know.

Q: Sure. Sure.

A: My friend or not my friend my college that talks about it - about this and you hear we something going on. And then when you when I went there next time, uh, I saw, you know, that uh, the chains were on top of thing.

Q: Okay, um, in July as you know from our discussion that - the - the structure had an issue there and they added these chains like you described. Um, was there any talk at that time of removing the fish from the net pen number 2, uh, you know site 2 because of the damage from the July incident?

A: Uh, I don't remember that at all. Obvious I wasn't part of the conversation. If it happened - I - I don't.

Q: You weren't part of the conversation.

A: (unintelligible).

Q: Sure okay. Um, let me ask you a technical question. Let's say, uh, the fish were removed from the net pen number 2 in - in July would there be a big difference in their growth rate if they were left there until September? You understand what I mean. Between July...

A: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Q: ...and September? Would there have been a big amount of growth on those fish?

A: Uh, normally, eh, if you do that, eh, you have to have the fish, uh, in a starve for at least two or three days that means loosing weight for those two or three days.

Q: Okay.

A: And then when you remove them you can't feed them for example. If you're taking a cage one for example...

Q: Sure.

A: As 40,000 fish.

Q: Okay.

A: You - depending on the - on the boat that you are using you can't put all the 40,000 fish in that boat at once. You need to move them by for example by 5,000 fish at a time. Or - or 10,000 fish at a time.

Q: Sure.

A: So, for example, you move them about 10,000 fish at a time or you have to put a number. You have four boats to fill, right?

Q: Right.

A: And normally the process of pumping those fish into the boat and pumping those fish out is one day operation. So I will say 10,000 fish for each one day of operation. So you have four days to move one entire cage.

Q: Sure.

A: Plus the two or three days that you're really starve them initially so that's like really gives you a week of not feeding the fish.

Q: Okay.

A: And then on the receiving cage this - this starting on the feed is also not immediately. So because of all the stress and - and the fish being pumped the - they don't start to eat right away so you have another maybe week or ten days to - for the fish to be eh - up and running again.

Q: Sure.

A: If you do everything right.

Q: I understand, uh.

A: So clearly you might lose two or three weeks of good growth there.

Q: Okay, now - let's say, let's say in July after this incidence they decided to actually harvest all of the fish.

A: Yeah.

Q: Uh, is there much growth difference between July and September's harvest?

A: Yes.

Q: There is okay. How many - how much are we talking about there?

A: If I don't remember wrong these guys would around 14 in August. I remember they were close to harvest.

Q: Okay in August.

A: I don't remember if they - so, you know, is one month earlier - eh, they eat, they were for example they was a four kilos that numbers was for the group. They may have been easily 3 point 7 almost.

Q: Okay. Okay.

A: You know. so it was three or four hundred grams that you lose...

Q: Mm-hm.

A: ...in one month. That's important volume.

Q: Sure, I understand. Let me ask you this though - it - let's say they harvested them in July. Would they still be able to go to market and be sold?

A: Uh, I cannot answer that question because it depends on the market or who are you selling to.

Q: Well - let's say - let's say there normal process is as you said they were almost ready for market in August. If they - if they took them to market earlier by a - by a month is that going to, uh-uh is that possible?

A: I mean you can harvest them on any - any size you want.

Q: Oh okay.

A: If you have a market also.

Q: I understand okay. So...

A: They all - they all continues while the bigger - I mean not the cost that is on that fish, right.

Q: Mm-hm.

A: And all the feed, the people the - all the cost that the operation - everything goes through the fish.

Q: Of course.

A: All the money that you used to raise those fish is divided by the pound or the kilogram of product that you have. The bigger the fish the better because you have more fish to dilute the cost.

Q: Of course.

A: Especially eh, at the end of the cycle where - where you are growing from 3.5 and the next month is almost 3.9 kilo and then the next month you can be in 4.2 - 4.3 kilo.

Q: Right.

A: So for these last month you have a lot of bio mass that will dilute your costs, eh, in - in a good way.

Q: Right. On - on a...

A: But I mean I can't say the fish were able to be sold because I really don't know the - the market strategies or - or, you know, because sometimes you have clients that only wants big fish.

Q: Right.

A: So.

Q: I understand. It - it but they were capable of being harvested at that - in - in

July if they wanted to.

A: Um, I guess they could harvest if they had a market. A decision.

Q: I understand - I understand. Okay. Um, so, uh, do you have any other knowledge of about the July incident or have any conversations with anybody about the July incident?

A: I remember (unintelligible) see the chains onto of the system.

Q: Yeah.

A: And then, um, so yeah so this is secure and good to - to go.

Q: Okay and then in...

A: I really didn't ever - that was more of an operation, eh, area topic rather than fish health.

Q: I understand, okay.

A: So I - I - I said while you guys are - are doing this and - and are really fixing this system so.

Q: When.

A: I see how they - they - its wasn't right to question what they were doing.

Q: Sure. You are in the, uh, Aquaculture business in [redacted] before you were in Seattle. And when you went out to see the July - the net pen after the July incident did you think, uh, looking at it that the structure looked okay?

A: Yeah. Oh yeah.

Q: Didn't see any problems with it that you could - that you noticed?

A: Like a - I mean clearly you could see chains on top. It's not a normal thing.

Q: Okay.

A: But - but - if - if - if -if it was trying to secure the system.

Q: Okay.

A: But other than that I didn't see any, uh, anything that was like ooh.

Q: Right, right.

A: It was - for what I could see it was pretty well, eh, pretty well done.

Q: Okay. Uh, ho- you were, uh, responsible for the fish health. How did the fish look in net pen number 2 after the July incident?

A: Number 2 I don't remember specifically.

Q: No, no I mean Cyprus- site 2, I'm sorry. Site 2.

A: Good, good. No we, uh - we uh, I don't know - I remember we didn't have a problem an issue after that so it wasn't a real problem for the fish.

Q: Okay. Okay. Um, while you were there did you ever get into discussions or notice net cleaning procedures?

A: Uh, yes.

Q: Um.

A: We didn't get into - I don't know remember exactly from that particular moment but in general yes, I - I was familiar with that was happening on the sites.

Q: How is - in your opinion - how were the - the nets on site 2 in terms of biofouling? During - before the July incident?

A: What can I say I don't remember the numbers of that. I remember the - that we were using the - the net washers.

Q: Mm-hm.

A: But that was more of a - of a [redacted] or - or what cage to clean or what set to clean.

Q: Right.

A: Depending on how the - the - the nets were looking.

Q: Right. Did you ever...

A: I don't remember.

Q: Go ahead.

A: Sorry go ahead.

Q: I was just saying did you ever notice if the - if the net pens were clean or they were fouled or anything like that.

A: I mean for that particularized case I really don't remember how much kelp was on the nets.

Q: Okay.

A: Or how clean or how dirty they were at that moment.

Q: Okay.

A: So I really can't - can't say it.

Q: Okay, um, let's talk about the August, uh, event that happened. Uh, we know that - in August the net pen system set - site 2 completely collapsed are you familiar with that?

A: Uh, I was familiar with the aftermath I mean once, uh, the thing happened.

Q: Right.

A: I - I - I never - I if I don't remember if anything happens on the weekends I - I was never aware of during the moment of this thing happening. So I was aware later on.

Q: Right and later on we discovered that, uh, a number of fish escaped from the net pens is that correct?

A: Uh, I sus- yeah, yeah.

Q: Okay.

A: I, yeah - I remember that we were culling the fish and they were counting them.

Q: Right.

A: So by yes - by difference of what was in inventory and done counting would be the escaped fish.

586
587 Q: Right were you part of the counting of the fish?
588
589 A: No.
590
591 Q: No. Do you know any one there that was part of the counting of fish?
592
593 A: Yeah, I wasn't that (unintelligible) of counting the fish. Uh, I think it was
594 ([redacted]). The one that was counting the fish.
595
596 Q: Who was it?
597
598 A: [redacted]).
599
600 Q: Oh [redacted], okay.
601
602 A: Yeah. I don't remember his last name.
603
604 Q: Okay. Were they counting them by hand?
605
606 A: Uh, by hand but I don't know if they were using any other a device...
607
608 Q: Okay.
609
610 A: ...also.
611
612 Q: All right. Um, and - but you don't know anything about the actual fish count
613 itself?
614
615 A: I mean I - what I was, uh, requested to go to the farm to see the - protect the
616 fish for, you know, fish health.
617
618 Q: Right.
619
620 A: I saw them counting but I wasn't involved on that proceeding itself.
621
622 Q: Okay. All right, um, let me ask you some technical questions about the fish in
623 those pens.
624
625 A: Mm-hm.
626
627 Q: Um, are - are - I've read different stories on, uh, the newspapers and stuff. Are
628 the fish all females or are they all males?
629
630 A: Um, I don't really know. I mean clearly not all males.

Q: Okay.

A: Eh, I don't necessarily know what type of population we had at that time but normally, uh, you have a normal population that is a mix of, uh, male female or have all female.

Q: Okay.

A: But not all male. That - that would be a bad.

Q: Understand.

A: Because normally, uh, but I just don't remember what we had at that particular moment at that site.

Q: Okay.

A: Um, those are records that y- you - you - I guess the company can - can - can give you better.

Q: Sure on those, uh, on the fish themselves are they, uh, sexually active? Are the breeding?

A: Um, (unintelligible). They do (unintelligible).

Q: No, do they have the capability of reproducing?

A: Uh, well yeah. I suspect yeah.

Q: Okay. Okay. Uh, one of the questions I have too is for - let's say, a, like in this situation these salmon get out, uh, what is their natural instinct are they going to go up streams and up rivers and things like that and try and reproduce?

A: Um, I don't think so. I mean this is a, you have to think that this is, um, a species that is not, eh, wasn't born in that water so - and really I can't speculate on that topic because I really don't know.

Q: Okay, okay.

A: There were some - some, uh, um, fish that tried to outside - I guess Washington state tried to, eh, to eh put some Atlantic on the past.

Q: Mm-hm.

A: In in those waters and they were never - never successful.

Q: Right, right.

A: So that - that was something there.

Q: Okay on these fish themselves, uh, will - if there not being handfed will they feed themselves in some other manner?

A: Uh.

Q: And by that, I mean...

A: I don't have the knowledge.

Q: Okay. That's not your expertise?

A: I mean, no- normally the thing is these fish have been fed their entire lives by hand.

Q: Right, right.

A: They are not used to catch their own feed. So, uh, I don't think they are capable to do that.

Q: Okay, okay. How long does a f- does a - oh go ahead sir.

A: But that is just a thought. Nothing really that I know that is that way.

Q: Right. Let's say you - you mentioned that, uh, while the fish are being moved around they don't eat for up to several maybe up to ten days. How long does a fish survive without food? Like this - a fish like this an Atlantic Salmon?

A: Yeah. Um, that's a good question I don't know how long it takes for a fish to die.

Q: Right.

A: But I know that, uh, not in this particular case but in another cases some fish have been without being fed for over two or three weeks.

Q: Okay. Okay.

A: Everything else depends on the temperature of the water again. The lower the temperature the less that the fish eat.

721
722 Q: Okay.
723
724 A: So they can maybe last longer.
725
726 Q: Right, right. Does a - does a fish like that, I know like on Pacific Northwest
727 Salmon when they come into feed or to breed they don't eat for quite a while
728 before they come in. Is that the same with Atlantic Salmon? When they - they
729 can go without eating for quite a while and just use their internal storage of fat
730 is that correct?
731
732 A: Yeah. Yeah - yeah, normally they stop eating when they're at that state.
733
734 Q: Okay, okay.
735
736 A: Or eating very, very little.
737
738 Q: Right, right. Okay. Um, did you ever have any conversations with anyone in
739 management about the, uh, the causes or the, uh, activities surrounding the
740 incidents in July and August or?
741
742 A: Uh, the only thing that I remember was, uh, extremely high current on those
743 moments.
744
745 Q: Uh-huh.
746
747 A: Um, and sometimes I saw the current it's not that I was looking up that
748 particular incident.
749
750 Q: Right.
751
752 A: Moment, but, uh, knowing the farms, uh, sometimes, you know you see a little
753 higher current but they are numbers amounting (unintelligible) its wasn't
754 completely abnormal higher currents.
755
756 Q: Oh okay, okay. Um, are you aware of any other, uh, Cooke net pens breaking
757 loose around this timeframe besides, uh, net pen number 2? In Cyprus?
758
759 A: No.
760
761 Q: Okay, all right. Um, can I ask why you left the company?
762
763 A: Um, because I found a better job.
764
765 Q: Oh okay.

A: With (unintelligible) with, uh, more projections.

Q: Okay, and when did you actually leave the company?

A: I think I left the company the last day was, uh, September 22.

Q: Okay.

A: I think.

Q: Did you leave because of some of the activities of site pen number 2?

A: Oh no, no it wasn't related to that.

Q: Okay, okay.

A: It was a professional development.

Q: Okay. All right, um, is there anything else you can think of that I should know about the fish or the, uh, company Cooke while we're on the phone?

A: Um, on what topic?

Q: Oh, just in general. Did, did?

A: Um, I think, um, Cooke in general is a great company to work with. A very careful for fish, very professional, um if I saw that in while I was working in [redacted] with them and I saw the same thing, uh, while I was working in Cooke Pacific. So I - I really think that the company is, uh, respectful of what - what, uh, its doing and a good company to work for.

Q: Okay great. Well [redacted] that's all the questions I have for now. In the future if I have some others would you mind if I called you?

A: No, no please go ahead.

Q: Very good. All right I'm going to stop the recording now. It's now, uh, 10:32 hours.

The transcript has been reviewed with the audio recording submitted and it is an accurate transcription.
Signed_____