

Excellency
Mrs. Michelle Bachelet
President of the Republic

For your consideration :

OCEANA is an international nonprofit organization that is aimed at promoting the sustainability of the oceans and conservation of the environment, in order to rationalize the exploitation of natural resources and thereby improve the standard of living of the population.

This letter is intended to ask you advancing in a concrete and determined manner, through the concerned mechanisms and organs of the State, to implement the recommendations contained in the Report of the Committee on Fisheries, Aquaculture and Maritime Interests regarding the environmental and labor impacts of the salmon farming industry in our country. This report was approved by the House of Representatives in January this year, and since that date we have not yet seen bills or administrative decrees from the Executive, aimed at improving both environmental and health standards of the industry, with the exception of a project submitted mid-year that goes on the opposite direction, relaxing environmental requirements for reallocations of aquaculture concessions.

From the Report of the Committee on Fisheries we appreciate the conclusions 4 and 6 related to "improve the dosage of antibiotics, provided through food, in order to rationalize the relationship between the quantity that is used and the biomass under treatment"; and "to formalize both planning and zoning tools in the coastal border in those regions where the aquaculture is carried out, as well as in those areas with potential, in order to know and agree on the geographic areas that are able to the joint development of aquaculture and tourism activities, determining also , the areas where those activities are clearly incompatible. "

Between the proposals contained in the report, our primary concern relates to the promotion of measures that are aimed to:

1. Stop the rampant expansion of the industry at the XI Region until an adequate coastal microzoning, that encompass ecologically sensitive areas such as fjords and channels - is developed, and are free of salmon net-cages.
2. Increase the enforcement capacity of public agencies dealing with the salmon farming industry.
3. Increase scientific research related to the environmental and health impacts of intensive salmon production, which should have a public-private fund in order to cover that initiative.

It is important to remind you that in recent months irregular incidents in this industry have increased, including the massive salmon escape in the Aysén Fjord surroundings ; the detection in the UK of the banned fungicide Crystal Violet in skewers made of Chilean salmon; the detection in Canada of high levels of Emamectina and Ivermectin in shipments of Chilean salmon; and the recent detection in Taiwan of 500 tons of Chilean salmon containing the prohibited fungicide malachite green.

Looking forward to having a good reception to this letter.

Best regards,

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