In August 2017, more than 263,000 farmed Atlantic salmon spilled from mangled industrial ocean fish farm into Washington’s waters. Many of these non-native finfish are still alive and swimming free, increasing competition and risk to already struggling wild, native salmon populations.

Cooke Aquaculture currently operates a number of Atlantic salmon operations in Washington’s waters. These facilities are being phased out by a recently passed state law that prohibits new leases and lease renewals for non-native finfish farms.

Photo: Side by side of Cooke facility before and after salmon spill. Credit: Beau Garneau

Alaska and Oregon have a ban on industrial ocean fish farming in their waters.

The federal government is considering permits for an industrial ocean fish farm in federal waters off the port of San Diego: Rose Canyon Fisheries owned by Hubbs-Seaworld.

No risk of industrial ocean fish farming - these areas are safe!

Heightened risk of facilities eventually operating in these areas.

Industrial ocean fish farms could commence operations here soon.

Areas at extreme risk of harm due to current policies and active facilities.

Industrial Ocean Fish Farms in the United States
Locations and Recent Disasters

Cooke Aquaculture operates more than 20 industrial ocean fish farms off of Maine’s coastline.

Industrial ocean fish farms rely heavily on processes and industries that change the pH of our oceans. Of all the New England states, Maine’s shellfish industry suffers the worst effects of ocean acidification. Maine should be taking steps to mitigate these harms by decreasing reliance on industries that contribute to ocean acidification. Unfortunately, Maine is still home to the majority of industrial ocean fish farms in that region.

The federal government is considering permits for Manna Fish Farms to operate an industrial ocean fish farm off the coast of Long Island. The Operators have already started moving in equipment.

North Carolina has passed a law that allows industrial ocean fish farms in its waters.

NOAA has already established a permitting system for industrial ocean fish farms in the Gulf of Mexico, which is currently in litigation.

NOAA has provided federal funding assistance and an operating permit for an industrial ocean fish farm: Veella Epsilon owned by Kampachi Farms.

In March 2017, a highly endangered monk seal was found dead after it wandered into the nets of Blue Ocean Mariculture’s industrial ocean fish farm.

Two industrial ocean fish farms are operating off the coast of Hawaii: Kampachi Farms and Blue Ocean Mariculture.

NOAA is pushing to open all of our coastlines, as well as the Great Lakes, to industrial ocean fish farms, including supporting new ventures with federal funding assistance. Some members of Congress are also looking into legitimizing these activities through legislation.

For more information contact Hallie Templeton, Senior Oceans Campaigner, at htempleton@foe.org.