

Carol Bordin

I am opposed to the raising of "non-native fish" in net pens in the Waters of the State of Washington. The reason is that the fish are not native to Washington State and pose several problems including: water quality problems; pose viral infectious diseases to various native fish and salmon; when pens break the non-native fish cause problems as competitors for food, space, spawning, health, ecosystem problems we still don't know about in our waters.

I believe that if any such "net pen fish" are allowed to be raised in net pens in the Waters of Washington State they should be of Wild Chinook Salmon stocks ONLY, and they should be made available ONLY for the Endangered Southern Resident Orca Whales for food, IMMEDIATELY for five years, and additional years if necessary! Only 10% of reared native Chinook salmon should be made available for sale.

The net pens should then be mandated to follow all the necessary requirements of a strict NPDES permit and compliance with said permit(s); require daily monitoring of water quality and compliance/reporting by third party to Washington Department of Ecology; require daily monitoring of health of native Chinook Salmon (physical characteristics) of size/length, weight, parasites, etc.; monitor proper feed and feeding of the salmon within non-crowded conditions/pens--all reported by third party to Washington State Dept. of Ecology and State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, and Puget Sound Partnership; require daily monitoring/reporting of the physical structure of all net pens for possible failures to WSDOE.

The Washington State Department of Ecology should require that any net pens utilized for rearing salmon should be of native Chinook stock only, and be allowed for the next 5 years to help the Southern Resident Orca Whales as a food source in the Waters of Washington State. The entire pilot project should be monitored closely for compliance; fish release upon reaching maturity into the waters of San Juan Islands (with no permitted recreational, sport, commercial, or tribal fishing seasons of these fish) for five years, and, monitoring and reporting annually; should pilot project show success in terms of restoring and increasing the numbers of the Southern Resident Orca Whale populations, project may continue in succeeding years, if necessary, to further the efforts to recover the population of Southern Resident Orca Whales.

I am, at this time, asking that you please share my comments with Gov. Jay Inslee in an effort to provide possibly some new ideas to help him and the Southern Resident Orca Whale Task Force with the efforts to restore and increase the Southern Resident Orca Whale population in the Samish Sea/Waters of Washington State.

Respectfully,

Carol Bordin