

## Vanessa Castle

The net pens for farmed Atlantic salmon are devastating the health and safety of our waters. Atlantic Salmon carry many diseases and excrete these diseases into our waterways that our local native salmon populations swim through. Our salmon in the Pacific Northwest are suffering from the sea lice and diseases that these Atlantic salmon have brought to the region, devastating the populations of healthy salmon runs when they return to our rivers, creeks and streams. The risk does not outweigh the reward. There are options for on land salmon farms that could be explored rather than putting these diseases fish and chemicals used to grow them (antibiotics and growth hormones) in our waters. Our native salmon are a keystone species here and the runs are already dwindling. There is no reason to give them another obstacle to survive. Say no to Atlantic Salmon net pens in our waters!