Bruce Freet

The onus to prove no harm on natural resources should be upon the permittee or applicant, not on WDOE to devise monitoring protocols. Based upon research on salmon farms worldwide, they contribute significantly to local water pollution such as reduced oxygen levels and increase nutrients, added antibiotics, and increases in fish-borne parasites and diseases. I suspect that the Hope Island facility has contributed to the decline of the Skagit River Chum salmon population because Chum smolts are very susceptible to lice predation leading to Chum mortality. This is just one example. The revoking of permits should have applied to all fin fish farms, not just Cypress Island and Port Angeles (Cooke Aquaculture).