

Marlene Finley

After reviewing the information on the Department of Ecology website and attending the presentation in Anacortes, I am remain concerned about the possible transfer of diseases and parasites from farmed salmon held in pens and wild salmon. I fear for the future of the Southern Resident Orcas which depend on the wild chinook salmon. I am also concerned about the proper removal of the net pens and other infrastructure and waste at the time these permits terminate. The State of Washington, both Department of Ecology and Department of Natural Resources will need to be diligent in administering these permits and willing to take enforcement action should any terms or conditions be violated.

Improved maintenance of pens so that farmed salmon do not escape is appreciated in the new permit. More oversight of the operations in the form of more frequent inspections and reporting is a plus. Improved response plans in the event of farmed fish escape is a plus.

Thank you for providing the public with so much information about the background, process of permitting, and the changes proposed in the new permits.