

# Bruce Kreider

Hello.

I have been a stakeholder in the property above the fish pens on Cypress Island for over 25 years. Initially, the pen occupants were good neighbors....quiet, and respectful of the environment. However, over the past 10-15 years, the commercialism and exploitation of the environment has been witnessed not only by me, but the other property owners on Cypress.

First it was the expansion of the pens, and then the incorporation of modern techniques to enhance the pen yields, inclusive of automatic feeding pipes which produced a high shrill, generators that broke the peace of the Island 24/7, what appeared to be underwater lights at night, fork trucks with back up alarms, and of course, the several breakage of pens with their Atlantic salmon released into the Bellingham Straights. Not once, but twice during my personal observation and tenure.

I was really surprised that the pens were allowed to escalate their commercialism in an arena that was deemed 'environmentally sensitive'. For those of us that have been part time residents, the demise of the sea kelp and grasses in the local bay, as well as the depletion of the oyster beds, the environmental impact was very evident. Most of all, we lost our solitude in what had been our weekend and Summer sanctuary.

Since the pens have been fallow in the past year, we have celebrated as the quiet has returned. So have the eagles and otters. We have our 'church' back after all these years.

I implore you to please rid the waters off Cypress of the commercial fish pens, and eliminate the risk to the local waters and environment that have already been exploited in such a negative light.

No permits, please.

Sincerely,

Bruce Kreider  
Issaquah, Washington  
Stakeholder at the Cliff House on Cypress Island.