

Danna Dal Porto

As a Washington state native, I have watched with alarm the construction of commercial fish net pens in Washington costal waters. The net pens have been in the Port Angeles harbor for years and I cannot imagine the layers of fish droppings below those pens as no water flow clears out that bay. The net pens kill all organisms below them and for an area around the pens. The contamination is dangerous for native fish and shell fish. The net pens attract sea lice which are predators on young salmon entering the sea from local spawning rivers and streams. Native tribes in Canada have documented the loss of salmon runs because of the development of net pens near salmon spawning areas.

The companies developing net pens win by using Washington State waters to raise commercially valuable fish with no loss to their businesses and little investment in the business. Washington State loses because of the damage to native fish and shell fish, the introduction of increased sea lice and disease into native fish, contamination of the sea floor and, if Atlantic Salmon are allowed to be raised, the introduction of a non-native fish into costal waters.

The net pen business is not good for Washington State and I urge the option to construct net pens be cancelled and the businesses asked to move somewhere else.