

We share our bay on Puget Sound with two state parks, a state/Native run preserve and, unfortunately a Cooke aquaculture pen. Our time here pre- the pen so I am well aware of its impacts.

I am deeply concerned by Cooke's plans to change from raising Atlantic salmon to raising a biologically-altered form of a native species (steelhead) considering Cooke's past disregard for the health and safety of our beloved waters.

I would hope that the state would allow any ongoing lawsuits to reach their conclusions.

That all new information concerning this change in species be taken into account. Even a 1% chance of these fish creating problems for our existing stocks is unacceptable.

That should Cooke prevail, all the newest regulatory rules are followed such as those put in place by HB 2957.

That, should this be allowed, the state would PROACTIVELY and regularly inspect all pens for stability, water quality, including that effects of food effluent, fish waste, medical effluent and may I add bird waste as large flocks of gulls hover over our pen during part of every single day. I would also add checks for mechanical noise pollution, which is a factor that has only gotten worse over the years.

It truly baffles me that we, as a state that so values our waters and our native fish, would in any, way, shape or form allow any practice that could harm either to *any* degree. That one of these pens is allowed to remain in a small area surrounded by state parks is beyond me, but that is not the issue at hand. Please make sure Cooke's proposal is given a thorough vetting under current guidelines and that, if they prevail, continued vigilance on the state's part will be in place.

Thank you,

Margy Pepper