

# Mark Skatrud

These comments are for the proposed species change of Cooke Aquaculture Pacific from salmon to steelhead. I oppose this change for the following reasons: 1) I am aware of no other pen raising of steelhead in the Washington waters and know there will be escapes as there has been with salmon resulting in potential cross breeding of hatchery and wild stocks. I do not want this to happen so having no pen raised steelhead would prevent this from happening. What analysis has been done about this potential threat to native steelhead? 2) What will be the difference to the marine environment between salmon and the proposed steelhead farming? Do steelhead produce more body waste than salmon? Will there be a "dead zone" below the pens? What marine species will be harmed by this waste? What species will benefit, thus making a potential imbalance to the immediate marine environment? 3) Will the facilities needed to pen steelhead be different than are used for salmon? If there is a difference in facilities to house steelhead, has the ramifications been analyzed?

Thanks for your consideration.