

Mary Rawlins

Re: Cooke application to permit modification to raise Steelhead

Thank you for taking comments. Cooke Aquaculture Pacific has a poor track record here in Puget Sound. They are now rushing to do this species change in order to use the net pens they have before leases expire . They should not be allowed to circumvent new regulations or avoid getting approval from the various agencies that have a stake. Even with new NPDES permits, switching to Steelhead does not address the underlying problems of water pollution and failure of stewardship, which happen regardless of species and regardless of oversight.

'HB 2957's new standards require re-examining past decisions to hold Cooke Aquaculture to that higher standard of eliminating these risks.

In reviewing Cooke's submissions and other materials submitted through this public process, the standard of review should be specifically on whether the policies in place achieve the state's goal to "eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife." Please deny the permit application. Thank you.