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Open-water fish farming is problematic for a multitude of reasons. While Washington has addressed one of the concerns raised by this practice by halting the aquaculture of non-native species (no more Atlantic salmon permits), a permit to raise steelhead in Puget Sound is still incredible problematic. The net pens in which farmed fish are contained easily allow for waste, antibiotics, parasites, and disease to become part of the local ecosystem causing detriment to native wildlife and water quality. While the current steelhead permit proposes rearing fish that cannot reproduce if they escape, an escape would still result in farmed fish, often riddled with parasites and illness, exposing native fish to those ailments and competing with native fish for food. Washington has long had a reputation for being forward-thinking when it comes to the environment, but permitting more fish farms in the state would be a step in the wrong direction. If Cooke never had a history of escape, I can see how these concerns might be dismissed as improbable, but not only has Cooke dealt with catastrophic escape in the past, but it has done so in very recent history. While the additional expense is obvious, perhaps Cooke should look into closed-circuit, land-based fish farming if they wish to stay in business. I urge Washington to "walk the walk" and deny this permit and any other open-water fish farm permits in the future.