

Dr. Jessie Sanders

This comment is to address the Cooke Aquaculture Pacific requesting a permit modification to raise steelhead. As an aquatic veterinarian, I support ethical and responsible aquaculture practices. The plans set in place by this permit modification request hold to these standards. Using sterile stock, as explained in this article (<https://thefishsite.com/articles/whats-the-smartest-way-to-sterilise-your-stock>) is of benefit to the producer and should directly address consumer concerns. The attached risk of a possible escape is outlined rationally in one of the attachments to this statement. The ancient arguments against net pen production are based on antiquated technology, with new studies confirming the lack of environmental impact (see additional uploads). In conclusion, as a educated member of the aquatic veterinary community, please strongly consider these points in your assessment of this permit change. Thank you for your time.