

Mike Sennett

There are no circumstances that should allow for this latest netpen operation to be approved. No matter what is raised in a confined animal feeding operation, the location produces unnatural amounts of concentrated fecal material, and becomes a vector for opportunistic diseases. The infestations of sea lice, viruses and other pathogens is an unavoidable feature of fish farms and there should be immediate an end to these operations. It is also a guaranteed result of any netpen facility is the destruction of the seabed by the continual outfall of fish shit that kills all life on the ocean bottom. I understand the fish farms are scheduled to be shut down, but that does not provide a reason to prolong the agony of habitat degradation caused by each and every netpen. Considering the increasing occurrence of diseases and habitat destruction that is happening in British Columbia, and the abysmal record of Cooke Aquaculture, I am appalled that this terrible plan has gotten this far. The insults and injuries the state of Washington has inflicted on the Salish Sea, from orca kidnapping to salmon run extinction, is tragic and unforgivable. I fear the state seems all too willing to let a private company profit from our commons while it degrades that public natural resource.

I already regard the Departments of Fish and Wildlife and Ecology to be bureaucracies captured by the industries they are supposed to regulate. An approval here will confirm my opinion as fact.
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