

Lorraine Howlett

Dear Laurie Niewolny

Water Quality Program, Department of Ecology P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504

I am writing to express my opposition to the application by Cooke Aquaculture to change the species in its net pens.

The new proposed species is the Steelhead, which is native to the northwest. The prior species, the Atlantic Salmon, was not native and believed unable to naturalize. The threat to Washington fisherpeople, native tribes, food sources and ecology posed by the farming of Steelhead VASTLY EXCEEDS the prior threat posed by the Atlantic Salmon.

To treat the pending application as minor or insignificant is not reasonable. Significant analysis and study must be invested before the possible threats arising from a change in species can be understood. This analysis and study is made possible only through the full EIS process.

I sincerely urge you to rescind the MDNS and proceed with a full EIS examination of the proposed change in species.

PLEASE NOTE: Me and my husband live less than 1000 feet from all of this noise, and smell and watch the sewage spill into the crystal clean waters everyday, we know this should NOT be allowed to be taking place anywhere for numerous reasons, BUT you refuse to listen to the majority of the people.

Also, there are now over 100 seals barking at all times of the day due to this operation causing all kinds of issues along with the documented "sinking pen" that during storms allows some of the fish to escape or the seals "breach" the pen and eat the fish for days. We have documented this happening!

So, in conclusion, listen to the people and stop the "loud and dirty" operation to continue. Do what is right!

Sincerely,

Lorraine Howlett
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Bainbridge Island, WA 98110