

Ann Prezyna

I am an environmental attorney who worked for nearly 25 years as an attorney in EPA Region 10 in the Office of Regional Counsel. My work included oversight of state NPDES programs. I am also familiar with net pens and the harm that results from their operation in marine waters. I oppose the proposed permit modification. Changing the species does not lessen the environmental impact of raising fish in a net pen environment. The concern about the discharge of pollutants (feces, waste feed, antibiotics, etc.) from these underwater feedlots, the transmission of diseases and parasites to wild fish, and competition for space and food resources with native species remains. I endorse the position of Wild Fish Conservancy and others who urge a stay of proceedings until their SEPA challenge is complete, and their arguments against issuance of a modified permit based on the risks it poses to the environment and the survival of native species, many of them threatened or endangered, including several species of salmon and southern resident killer whales.