

Cooper Oswald

I can't believe I'm still having to add my opinion to this ludicrous proposal. Are you guys not listening to your constituents? The public doesn't want these net pens to continue in our waters. Allowing for Cooke to raise infertile steelhead in Washington waters is clearly a bad idea (did you already forget the Atlantic salmon pen collapse and the lies about it from Cooke?). This company is known for its lack of effort put into ensuring the net pens are cleaned and not at risk for collapse. Even though cooke claims these fish will be infertile we all know that some fish will not be, and when your talking about raising millions of steelhead,a couple thousand could be fertile which seems like a huge risk given how cooke treats its net pens. Additionally the waste produced by these net pen operations has devastating effects on the ESA listed salmonid smolts that swim under the pens and become exposed to the many pathogen and parasites. The net pens also pose a huge risk to the water quality by creating hypoxic zones around them and drastically increasing the nutrient loading around the pens. With the increasing threat to the long-term sustainability of our native wild steelhead, I plead that you think twice before repeating history and allow this corrupt company who lied about the most recent net pen collapse to continue working in Washington State. In order to ensure the recovery and sustainability of our salmoinds we must learn from our previous mistakes, and not repeat them.