

# Zachary Morrow

Cooke should not be allowed to modify their NPDES permit in order to raise steelhead. In order for this modification to be acceptable, Cooke would have to be demonstrating a rigorous commitment to safe and well-monitored operation of their net pens. They have failed to do so after the 2017 Cypress Island disaster. There have been numerous documented problems with the structural integrity of pens in multiple Washington State facilities and beyond. In my community of Bainbridge Island, WA, Cooke been penalized for water-quality violations. Moreover, Cooke fails to provide evidence that the switch to Steelhead would materially reduce water pollution. The community is owed a comprehensive and scientific outline of all the potential environmental impacts related to the switch.

Cooke should be held to the highest environmental standards possible given a track record of glaring negligence and the horrific consequences directly stemming from that negligence. How can we justify allowing Cooke to implement Steelhead farming given its record and the alarming fact that its operations remain untenable? They have shown no good faith commitment to acknowledging and rectifying past blunders and no environmental plan that can restore public confidence for the future.