

Laura L Brakke

I am writing to ask that this permit be denied. Cooke Aquaculture has demonstrated in the past with net pen failures, that they are not to be trusted to be prepared to handle a net pen disaster. They were untruthful, they were negligent, they did not maintain equipment, and they ask the public to forget this negligence.

They are now submitting a plan to switch species, but are they prepared to switch their management of net pens? Please remember the water is a Publicly owned resource. Washington is trying to bring back native Salmon runs, we (at least some of us) are trying to save threatened Orca populations. This permit if granted would severely hinder these efforts.

Net pens are inherently dirty operations. They depend on the ill-conceived notion, "The solution to Pollution is Dilution". Caging wild fish in Public water spaces creates unmitigatable waste mixed with toxic un-natural food pellets. Cooke then depends on 'flushing' of this waste into fresher waters. It doesn't disappear. Please study where it goes, does it create an algae bloom, does it settle into the sea floor creating a toxic sludge?

Washingtonians don't need artificially raised fish, we want real wild Salmon! We don't want our water ways taken over by Canadian companies walling off large portions of water, calling it private. All the fish, whales and even humans have the right to free passage on all our bodies of water, they are held in Common for all.

Please do not allow privatization of public resources, especially when a project will cause pollution. This permit would be antithetical to our efforts to Bring Back Salmon.

Thank you for taking my comments into serious consideration in this permitting process. I would like to close by saying my family is a family supported by Commercial Salmon fishing. Our livelihood was curtailed years ago in Puget Sound, we are no longer able to support our family by legal commercial fishing in Puget Sound. The runs have been decimated, for multiple reasons, reasons only exacerbated by more Fish Farms.

Sincerely,
Laura Leigh Brakke