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Ensuring compliance of rules set by NPDES permits is crucial.

Following the 2017 Cypress Island net pen collapse, Wild Fish Conservancy sued Cooke Aquaculture under the Clean Water Act (CWA). That suit resulted in rulings that the company had violated the terms of its permits, including by failing to conduct required inspections of net pen moorings and anchors, to accurately monitor and report the number of fish escaping from pens, to develop operational plans that include necessary procedures for inspecting cages, storing chemicals, disposing of harvest blood, and to track the number of fish in its cages and lost to predation. Cooke's history of CWA violations is important to consider in this process, if nothing else to ensure that the permits are drafted to ensure that violations are detected before catastrophe ensues.