

Wendy Scholl

Multiple environment destructive events caused by Cooke Aquaculture, expert investigation and testimony on Cooke's operating history of net pen failures, inadequate maintenance and inspections plus inaccurate reporting is irrefutable. Cooke is an environmental operating disaster in Puget Sound. Every Cooke Aquaculture permit application must be rejected by the Department of Ecology. Particularly this spring their permitting request must be rejected regarding modifying their existing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits to allow rearing steelhead in their Puget Sound net pens.

Immediately Department of Ecology should void all current Cooke operating permits and not be constrained waiting for the 2022 legislative phase out deadline when Cooke will be required to remove their Atlantic salmon net pens from Puget Sound.