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I live near Cypress Island, where the Cooke Aquaculture net pens collapsed and allowed over 305,000 non-native species of fish to escape and impact our wild fish species as well as pollute our fragile waters. Not only was Cooke Aquaculture not upfront with this horrible situation of the escapement, but they also originally downplayed the amount of their farmed fish that did indeed escape into our fragile waters. Why are we selling our Salish Seas to the highest bidder? Why are we giving corporations the benefit of polluting our fragile waters when we have science documenting the various issues with net pens? (Discharge of diseases, parasites, viruses, fish waste, fish effluent, antibiotics, medical effluent to name a few.) Plus, the change in species produces new and different risks. "The passage of HB 2957 created a new and stricter regulatory regime for marine net-pen aquaculture. In reviewing Cooke's submissions and other materials submitted through this public process, the standard of review should be specifically on whether the policies in place achieve the state's goal to eliminate...escapement and to eliminate negative impacts to water quality and native fish, shellfish, and wildlife. In light of those new legal mandates, and the different risk profile presented by rearing a domesticated and biologically-altered form of a native species as opposed to a non-native species, this permit application should be considered not as an extension of past practices, but as if these pens were starting anew. HB 2957's new standards require re-examining past decisions and holding Cooke Aquaculture to that higher standard of eliminating risks." Our Sound Our Salmon quote, I trust that environmental non-profits of our region like Our Sound Our Salmon are truly looking to the overall health of our ecosystem following the science to make these educated, and moral statements. Our ecosystem is struggling, and we keep adding insult to injury with these schemes to make money, but at what cost? At least follow the rules set in place to help protect our environment from this "free pass" for Cooke Aquaculture. Ecology should not issue NPDES permits until Cooke Aquaculture has initiated and received agreement from all local, state, federal, and tribal governments. Thank you.