

Steve Miller

I am strongly opposed to granting Cooke Aquaculture a permit to raise steelhead in the existent net pens. Cooke has repeatedly shown itself totally unwilling to actually follow the guidelines, rules and regulations they have agreed to in the past. If Wash state now allows them to do what amounts to an end run around the legislature's intent, it will simply signal to them, and to the rest of the world, that paying \$2.4 M in fines is just the cost of doing business in Wash state. Grease enough palms in Olympia and you can get whatever you want, regardless of how destructive it may be to the ecosystems we all depend on. At a time when our citizens are increasingly skeptical of their elected officials willingness to actually serve our citizens' interests, and not just do the bidding of the large corporations with their open checkbooks, then granting this permit will seal the deal - the long term health of our beloved Puget Sound can and will be sold 'for a few dollars more' to the corrupt and dishonest corporations who actually run the state.