

Mark Stevenson

We believe Cooke's change of fish species in their application does not eliminate the risks of pollution of the natural environment. A plume of degraded water quality around the pens is to be expected. Cooke's history with open water net pens is not good--releases of penned fish into the general environment may degrade native species by increasing competition for food and/or interbreeding. What is "Partially sterile"? Washington State had declared that no new licensing of open water net pens would be issued. A switch of species should be considered a new application and it should be denied. --Mark Stevenson & Sara Ybarra Lopez