

# Anonymous Anonymous

I moved to Washington state during my service in the United States Army, and immediately fell in love. The state is absolutely breathtaking. The intense natural beauty is balanced, in my opinion that allows industry, recreation, and the environment to coexist, largely, in harmony.

While no system is perfect, and precaution is often tempered by the need to remain financially viable, it is my feeling that recent failures in open water net pens in recent years demonstrates that current practices and precautions are not in keeping with continued viability of ESA listed salmon/steelhead stocks. I don't believe that continued aquaculture in open water net pens can occur alongside healthy native stocks, or the predators, industries, and recreationally based industries they support.

I am concerned not only of escaping fish, but of the pollution that concentrated feeding, and accumulated waste of these net pens would certainly produce as well. Sufficient studies have not been done to satisfy questions regarding the safety to native marine life, and of humans who use the puget sound.

Open water net pens, especially in the somewhat segregated areas of the Salish Sea, would concentrate a captive population of salmonids which could allow diseases to occur, and pass between farmed and native fish stocks. Diseases introduced to an already endangered population of ESA listed, is something that could be devastating to local populations. The mere possibility of further impacting local salmonid populations, in the face of the costs alone that Washington state is incurring to mitigate impact of infrastructure to local salmonid stocks, is unethical at best.

Several communities, globally, have already enacted measures to prevent aquaculture in the form suggestion for our local waters. Washington State needs to continue to act as an environmental leader, and do what is healthy for the State, its people, and the environment.

Thank you for the opportunity for concerned citizens, like myself, to voice our issues with the proposed plan, and call into question the issue that we feel don't have thorough, or appropriate answers.