

Jeremiah Donier

For over three weeks' I haven't been able to like to the public comments via your website about Cooke Aquaculture Pacific's water quality permit applications to raise steelhead. This seems an intentional attempt by your agency to prevent public comments from being submitted. The press and activists have been notified and protests will ensue if this permit is issued. Cooke is a multi-billion dollar company that cares nothing but its own profit, and has not managed its aquafarms responsibly, its release of non-native fish into the ecosystem is already having a devastating impact on local fish, orca, and other wildlife in the Salish Sea. Their farms need to be shut down and removed, and a more responsible, sustainable system needs to be put into place. There are a few local fishery companies who could take up the challenge of working with government and tribal agencies to manage fish in Washington's waterways, give them a chance. Stop doing business with big companies, they are morally bankrupt and it leads to corruption and abuse of public interests. These water belong to the people and the wildlife who live here, not to those who don't call the Salish Sea home. Why should they care if they ruin an ecosystem they aren't connected with? Be responsible and deny this and all future permits for big companies like Cooke.