

Roberta Ewing

The Pacific Northwest Salmon is critically important to our economic and recreational future. By sterilizing a limited resource for any foreign or domestic profit is not what I want to have happen. The orcas need the salmon to survive and they are not able to eat enough right now so they are in jeopardy of dying off. As a taxpayer, I have provided substantial personal funds in the form of taxes and contributions so that we can improve the native habitats so these very fragile salmon females can lay their eggs. Taking resources from this dwindling pool of fish should not be allowed.

I would also like to continue fishing for salmon in salt water as I do crabbing. We have commercial, Tribal and recreational fishermen all vying for this limited resource. We need to increase the number of salmon, not decrease.

The fish farm at Cypress Island is one of our crabbing sites. We have been going there for a number of years. Sometimes we get these little worms all over our dinghy in front of those pens. We don't get them anywhere else so I believe that the surrounding water is dirtied by fish feces, rotten Atlantic salmon and extra food. We were anchored there the weekend that the pen collapsed and fish were jumping all over the place. This was an accident but it allowed an altered species to contaminate our waters.

Currently, the Cooke Properties harvest Atlantic Salmon which have no taste and have to be injected with dye in order to look even eatable. I don't want the world to think that the Cooke Pacific Salmon is representative of our natural fish. Growing fish in a pen for human consumption is a tasteless product and should not be allowed.

I sincerely hope that your decision is NOT to approve this request. We need more native fish. There is absolutely nothing as delicious as a fresh salmon on my plate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Roberta Ewing