

Rachel Thody

I don't believe switching species makes it any more acceptable to establish fish pens. Regardless of the species of fish, there is substantial data pointing at the ecological harm that is a very obvious symptom of fish pens. My primary concern is the various chemicals ranging from pesticides to food pellets with hormones that will contaminate the surrounding waters. Not to mention the nutrient build up and excessive waste from the condensed fish can cause dead zones or algae blooms. And yes I am familiar with IMTA and using shellfish around the pens as a means of filtration, but that is addressing only the issue of waste.

Environmental issues are not black and white. Aquaculture has its benefits, but the negative impact of fish pens should outweigh those benefits when water quality is already suffering due to other issues. We don't need to add another problem to the growing number of problems to keeping the ocean clean and healthy.