

Allan Holmes

My pet peeve with the fish pens used to be the heavy trucks with the wear and tear on the road to the beach, but now it's more about the increase in sea lions and noise at all hours. Those pens have become a sea lion magnet. There must be well over 100 of them. They go back and forth close to the beach in packs of 5-10. We're afraid to go out in our kayaks as they can be very unpredictable. I've been blaming the mud/slime accumulation on our normally rocky beach on the tribe's multi-year destruction of the bottom and eel grass due to Geoduck harvesting and that may be part of it, but what about the increased amount of feces added to narrow Rich Passage by the increase of sea lions. The pens themselves must produce quite a concentrated amount of excrement plus lost fish food as well though someone must have validated that solution as acceptable years ago, but what about a study of the increased quantity of non-indigenous excrement? I wonder how those in charge of evaluating such things would compare what the sea lions are dumping to how many houses, pumping raw sewage into the sound, would be equal. Many neighbors grow oysters on our beach for family consumption and that worries me as well.