

# Jordan Tappero

Madam/Sir, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Cooke Aquaculture permit. The WA Dept of Ecology has responsibility for keeping the waters and shoreline of Rich Passage clean for marine life and land animals, including us many humans who share in its use for recreation, transportation and economic livelihood. I am deeply concerned that the skilled professionals at WA Dept of Ecology would take a decision on Cooke AquaCulture's permit application to raise steelhead absent the opportunity to hear from the affected community face-to-face. I completely understand why we have not had that opportunity due to the risk to public safety posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. That said, there should be no rush to take a decision on whether or not to grant Cooke AquaCulture's permit application before hearing from the residents of Bainbridge Island. As we have all seen, the state of WA is taking prudent steps to open up the state with the safety of its citizens in mind. I for one have deep concerns about the ongoing risk to the aquatic environment posed to Rich Passage by Cooke AquaCulture, and I would like you to respect that my voice, and those of our community be heard.

Sincerely,

RADM (retired) Jordan Tappero, MD, MPH