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While the farming of sterile female steelhead addresses the concern of escaped non-native fish species, it does not adequately address the contamination concerns of sea lice and the chemicals used to control sea lice infestations. According to Alaska Fish and Wildlife "Wild salmon close to fish farms are 73 times more likely to suffer lethal sea lice than juveniles not adjacent to fish farms. A fish farm can also elevate the rate of sea lice infestation in salmon up to 40 miles from their pens. Sea lice can survive for about 3 weeks off their host -- making transfer from farmed to wild salmon possible."

https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifeneews.view_article&articles_id=388

Another pollution concern is the virus problem from herding fish in a small place, and the infection of nearby wild fish.

For these reasons, fish farms belong on land, and their effluent must be adequately treated before entering the Salish Sea.