

# jeffrey hollingsworth

I am submitting the following comments:

1) To the extent supporting comments come from Cooke employees, vendors, and contractors and focus on jobs and the rural environment, they are directed at issues unrelated to NPDES permit. With all due respect, these comments are surplusage and have no bearing on the permit decision. Furthermore, the suggestion that this is a rural environment is, charitably, outdated. It is in fact a populated neighborhood with dozens of residences literally within, in some cases, only yards of the pens and dozens more within sight and sound of them.

2) Cooke's repeated failure to adhere to existing permit requirements here and elsewhere, evidenced by the Cypress Island disaster, the State's need to modify existing permits last July, and the numerous settlements eventually required by Cypress Island and other violations, makes the company an unreliable applicant. These points are missing for obvious reasons from the supporting comments from Cooke employees, vendors and contractors.

3) Cooke neither has (nor, to be fair, claims) any experience with farming steelhead in salt water. What Cooke proposes is a completely untested and vast experiment with state waterways in Rich Passage. No one knows the effect, for example, the massive effluent discharges from the penned fish will have on the marine environment because there has never been an enormous concentrated mass of steelhead in one spot in this waterway. And because Cooke plans for these fish to have virtually no natural life at all—they will be raised until slaughter entirely in the pens—the huge daily discharges will go on literally for years.

Thanks again for considering my comments.