

# Rachel Running

I am adamantly opposed to the permit modification that would allow Cooke to change species from Atlantic salmon to steelhead. It is unfathomable that Cooke's past practices with raising Atlantic salmon is not being considered. They have consistently pushed the limits in regards to being in compliance with environment standards. The only oversight of the Bainbridge Island net pens seems to come from the neighborhood, questioning what they are doing, calling them out on it and at times reporting them. Clearly the pens are in a state of disrepair. When one of the pontoons had a leak over several days the pen became lower and lower in the water. They were notified yet nothing was done until it was reported to the coastguard. By that time a corner was submerged. My family consistently picks up trash/debris from the beach that appears to come from the farm. We have had issues with noise from generators that are suppose to have noise abatement covers on them, pressure washing, and fish die off. We have witnessed seals and a sea lion in the pens eating fish. If they get in surely salmon are getting out.

We have lived her for over 9 years. In the past we would see an occasional sea lion, mostly on the buoys and occasionally on the dock. There are now hundreds of them on the pens 24/7 that have been here since Christmas. This is a concern on many levels.

There are several issues this company needs to deal with before moving on to a new species. Their past practices must be considered when issuing a permit. What would make them take any more care with this new endeavor. This should not be a rushed process and those affected by it should have ample opportunity to voice their concerns in person. They have not been good stewards in caring for the puget sound and I don't think a new species would change that.

Thank you

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