

Katherine Krueger

You won't read this if I just present as an individual from Forks, so is a brief summation of my experience in the subject matter. I am retired now but still active on North Pacific Coast Lead Entity, Coast Salmon Partnership, Coast Salmon Foundation, and the North Pacific Coast Marine Resources Committee (citizen volunteer on behalf of Clallam County on these committees, and officer of CSF. Before retirement for 20 years I was an in-house attorney for the Quileute Tribe's Natural Resources Department and was on coast-wide and region-wide committees regarding salmon habitat, water quality, and ocean health. I have a BS and MS in Geology, and besides WA, have been licensed in IL and TX to practice law although inactive in those states. Emphasis was on environmental law. COASTAL NET PEN FISHERIES ARE A HUGE RISK TO THE HEALTH OF THE NATIVE SALMONID POPULATIONS (viruses, lice, bacteria, you name it). DO NOT GO BACKWARDS INTO THIS MISTAKE. These pen fish carry diseases. Sooner or later pens breach because of storms. The fish get out. Fish from the last "inner waters" event made it all the way to the Pacific Coast rivers. You know the cost to industry and the state when a fish is ESA-listed. It screws up business across the board. We are spending so much time and effort to bring back listed salmon stocks and this is a risk to recovery we do not have to take. There are alternatives. There are upland pens that don't connect to the ocean. There are fresh-water fisheries like tilapia. I am aware that NOAA accepts this net pen practice but the state does not have to do so. WA has always been proactive; one example is ocean acidification work. We're leaders in that field of study. It's not too late to be smart. Deny this permit and any others like it.