

Erik Marks

Dear DOE:

I am writing to express my opposition to the application by Cooke Aquaculture to change the species in its net pens.

The new proposed species is the Steelhead, which is native to the northwest. The prior species, the Atlantic Salmon, was not native and believed unable to naturalize. The threat to Washington fisherpeople, native tribes, food sources and ecology posed by the farming of Steelhead VASTLY EXCEEDS the prior threat posed by the Atlantic Salmon.

To treat the pending application as minor or insignificant is not reasonable. Significant analysis and study must be invested before the possible threats arising from a change in species can be understood. This analysis and study is made possible only through the full EIS process.

CONCLUSION: I urge you to rescind the MDNS and proceed with a full EIS examination of the proposed change in species.