

David Johnson

First, I am appalled that any application by Cooke Industries would be considered by Washington permitting agencies. They have repeatedly shown they are not a good steward of the public waters they lease. They have not maintained their pens adequately to prevent escapements, REPEATEDLY, not just once.

The change of fish from Atlantic Salmon to triploid steelhead reduces the likelihood of introduction of fish viruses from the Atlantic ocean, but it does nothing to change the introduction of pollution from fish effluent, fish feed, antibiotic and antifungals used to treat the penned fish. It must violate clean water standards and should be denied for that reason alone. Then there is the increased risk to native fish of infections like sea lice that they can get as they pass the net pen areas.