

# Laurence Reeves

I urge the Department of Ecology to deny Cooke Aquaculture Pacific NPDES permit applications to raise steelhead for multiple reasons. 1) Cooke has a very poor track record of meeting the permit requirements of their earlier operations. 2) Raising fish in net pens spreads diseases and negatively impacts water quality. 3) It is well documented that the health of the Salish Sea is precarious. The decline of sentinel species such as orca and salmon are a prime example. We should be doing things to restore the Salish Sea, not to degrade it, which is what this net pen proposal would do. In summary, I hope you will consider the health of the Salish Sea, current scientific data, and deny this permit application. Thanks, Laurence Reeves