

# Diane Bell

The Cooke Aquaculture Pacific permit to raise penned steelhead in Salish Sea waters should be denied for the following reasons:

1. The high density within salmon pens increases both fish diseases and fish parasites. These can and do spread to our declining wild fish runs. Salmon parasites are already an ongoing contributor to pre-spawning mortality in our local rivers. All our efforts must be directed to wild fish restoration.
2. The density of penned salmon also leads to heavy nutrient pollution below the pens from animal waste. Nutrient pollution is already a problem in these waters, no need to add to it.
3. Cooke Aquaculture Pacific has proved itself to be an extremely sloppy fish farmer with many many violations and fish escapes. I see no reason to extend new permits to this awful company.

Thank You,  
Diane Bell  
Seattle