

# Tracy McCallum

Cooke Aquaculture has not demonstrated responsible management of net-pen operations. I find it impossible to believe that they can operate new netpen operations any better than they did the old ones.

Raising Steelhead in net pens in the same waters where wild Steelhead prevail is asking for disaster. What would happen if the domestic Steelhead escaped just like the Salmon did and ended up going up estuaries and rivers usually used by the wild steelhead. Would it disrupt the wild Steelhead mating and creating of redds and nests? Hell yes, it would! We need to protect our wild Steelhead stocks, and allowing Cooke to try to raise Steelhead in wild Steelhead waters would be a mistake.

Also, everybody knows that net pen operations in open waters create health hazards for wild fish. Sea lice and other nuisances end up feeding around the net pens and are harmful to our wild fish stocks. Also, if there is any disease in the net pens, it gets transferred to the waters traversed by wild fish. They should move their operations to inland lakes and ponds and quit messing with our wonderful coastline wild fish habitat. Do not allow this permit to go ahead.