

Kim Beck

There is no dispute that net pens cause harm to marine waters. I strongly oppose the proposed permit modification. Changing the species does not lessen the environmental impact of raising fish in a net pen environment. The concern about pollutants (feces, waste feed, antibiotics, etc.) from these underwater feedlots, the transmission of diseases and parasites to wild fish, and competition for space and food resources with native species remains.

As a Washington coast resident, I endorse the position of Wild Fish Conservancy and others who urge a stay of proceedings until their SEPA challenge is complete, and their arguments against issuance of a modified permit based on the environmental risks it poses and the survival of native species. Many of these species are already threatened or endangered-- including several species of salmon and southern resident killer whales.

Please remember Cooke Aquaculture's previous SERIOUS violations. There is no need to give them another chance. Do not permit these applications. Give the Salish Sea a chance to recover!