

## Patrick Townsend

It is shocking that Cooke would be considered for yet another net pen operation in Puget Sound following the ecological disaster they created previously. It is also shocking that WDFW and ECY would be considering another net pen operation in Puget Sound given the global trend away from these types of operations. Many countries are now banning these operations due to the negative environmental impacts. This is from Denmark:

"Saying that Denmark's coastal and inland waters have become "overloaded" with nitrogen, the country's current environment minister Lea Wermelin, recently announced that licensed fish farms will be only for land-based operations."

Reference:

<https://www.rastechmagazine.com/ireland-fisheries-chief-sees-trend-towards-onshore-fish-farms/>

Even traditional Northern European net pen operators are now moving to onshore operations to avoid the environmental impacts:

<https://salmonbusiness.com/these-are-the-leading-land-based-salmon-farms-in-the-world-right-now/>

The future for net pen and shellfish aquaculture is clearly with onshore, land-based operations. Just one facility currently in development in Florida will meet more than half the demand for salmon in the US. Washington State is in danger of becoming the dumping ground for unsustainable aquaculture operations with negative effects on our native fish populations and on our Southern Resident Killer Whale populations.

Just say No to all net pen operations in Puget Sound.