

Olympic Environmental Council

The Olympic Environmental Council has long been concerned about raising fish in pens and has tracked this industry for over 20 years. To be brief, our position opposes raising penned animals, feeding them toxic feed which then circulates through the marine system and to other animals, using dyes to color the fish -- dyes which can be harmful to humans, the diseases and parasites endemic to the penned fish and then sold for human consumption, the plastic introduced to the marine ecosystem from the pens, the pollution of the bottom lands, the history of thousands of escapees -- violating the rule that if one escapes that is pollution, the escapees ability to access the streams of wild fish and build reefs and crowd out the wild fish from their native streams, the introduction of non native species - even so-called native but of different genetic stock, and the fact that Cooke Aquaculture has provided the State a poor record of upkeep and oversight of its properties.