

## John Corso

Generally, I support aquaculture as a means of reducing the harvest of wild fish and especially endangered and threatened species. However, I am concerned about the threat of disease and parasites in farmed stock infecting wild fish especially threatened and wild species like steelhead. Please ensure that there is a strong clause in the permits requiring recurring testing of farmed steelhead for all known infectious diseases -including bacterial, fungal, and viral - and parasites. Further, please incorporate the cost of testing into the cost of the permits and require an independent business to collect and analyze samples and publicly report the results. If Cooke can demonstrate that it can raise disease and parasite-free steelhead, please consider rewarding them with a renewed permit. However, if testing reveals that Cooke is unable to keep its stock free of infectious disease and parasites in any one of its pens, the permits must strongly and clearly state that they must immediately remove all steelhead from all of their pens to reduce the likelihood of the disease and/or parasite infecting threatened and endangered wild steelhead. Finally, if Cooke demonstrates that it is unable to keep its stock free of disease and parasites, the permit must clearly and strongly state that all of the pens must be shutdown and Cooke must present their plan for controlling the disease and/or parasites for public review, comment and approval before they are permitted to restock the pens.

Thank you for considering my concerns and suggestions.

John Corso