

Jean Thompson

I have continued concerns that Cooke Aquaculture can be relied upon to comply with the requirements of the permits they seek. It was non-compliance that led to the collapse of the Cypress Island pens and release of Atlantic Salmon, which we witnessed first hand from our home here in Anacortes.

Additionally, I am not convinced there is a way to conduct aquaculture that does not pollute/harm the seabed below and the surrounding waters. Excess feed and concentrations of fish poo pile up on the seabed and smother all naturally occurring living organisms.

Thirdly, I have seen multiple documentaries showing how fish farms attract an over population of sea lice. Whereby sea lice occur naturally, these concentrations attach to the smolt of wild fish runs in the area in numbers so great that they kill them before they reach the open sea, thereby reducing the survival rates of our wild fish runs.

Aqua culture is a threat to our wild fish runs and should not be allowed for anyone, anywhere.