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Washington is the only state on the Pacific coast that permits these facilities. At the beginning of 2020, Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau announced plans to transition all open-water industrial aquaculture in British Columbia to land-based facilities by 2025.

Many of these farmed fish would still be capable of interbreeding & exchanging pathogens & parasites with endangered wild Puget Sound steelhead. With this permit Cooke will be able to exploit a loophole in the legislative phaseout by raising steelhead rather than Atlantic salmon. Our state government needs legislation to get rid of any type of net pens! Our ocean, sea life, and the public's healthy consumption of fish is at risk.