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The track record of Cooke Aquaculture and other firms shows that disease from the concentrations of fish spreads to wild populations, and also that no net pens can reliably contain fish 100% of the time. These unavoidable consequences mean that salt-water net pens are detrimental to the surrounding environment and native species.

The responsible solution is to require all net pens to be situated on land with comprehensive treatment of the circulating water before it is returned to the ocean.

Is not the role of the Department of Ecology to protect the environment and ecology of the natural world? Is that not more important to us and future generations than short-term corporate profit for a few individuals?

Thank you for your consideration of the people and wildlife of Washington and the world.