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Do not issue new permits or modify existing permits for any fish farming in WA marine waters. Raising sterile rainbow trout is not any better than Atlantic salmon. They present the same problems with waste and pollution and sea lice that negatively affect surrounding waterways and the wild species that live there, including ESA listed species.

I am a fishing guide on Puget Sound and I see first hand the lack of fish that live near the Orchard Rocks pens. Bluntly, the fishing always sucks near those pens.

Rainbow trout present the same escape risks, and possibly worse, than Atlantic Salmon. Escapes are unavoidable and when fish escape they compete for food and space with wild species, again some of which are ESA listed. These pens must be in violation of both the ESA and Clean Water Act.

There is no guarantee that all these fish will be sterile. When those fish escape they can migrate up local rivers and interbreed with ESA listed, wild steelhead and dilute genetic diversity, contributing to further declines in survivability of wild steelhead.

The net pens are not worth it. The science is clear, it all points to net pens as bad for wild species and bad for people. WA is the last state or province on the West Coast to allow marine fish farming. All marine net pens need to be banned in this state as soon as possible.