

Submitter: Dave Fitzpatrick

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2965

Please stop endangering our native fish. They have barely survived so much of what we've already done to them; massive overfishing, dam-turbines, water temperature increases, industrial effluent, sewage, and human encroachment, to name but a few.

Net-pen aquaculture introduces diseases to which native fish have little resistance. It increases pollution, and through all-too common escapes, adds non-native species to an already embattled food chain. Given how hard we've all fought to keep Oregon's iconic fisheries alive, it makes no sense to subject the environment to further stressors.

That aside, the non-human animals in the pens themselves live short, brutal and unnaturally crowded lives before being unceremoniously sacrificed for something as insignificant as frozen fish-sticks. Even though most of these farmed species come from the other side of the globe, one can hardly blame them for escaping into the wild—where they should be returned ASAP.

Net-pen aquaculture has no place in Oregon.