

## Diana Gordon

There are numerous water quality issues involved besides construction of a new dock for the MBTL.

One important one is the wave effect as huge coal bearing vessels pass through the Columbia River Estuary. Most of these vessels will be huge and will create wakes which will impact riparian vegetation directly through breakage, swamping, and erosion. They will also alter patterns of erosion and deposition and spread of noxious weeds. Soil erosion is one of the leading causes of habitat loss for salmon. Further, wakes can redistribute fine sediment that can smother aquatic vegetation.

The Estuary and its associated habitats serve as important nursery grounds for juvenile fish (including salmon) and contain very high quality, unarmored shallow-water shoreline habitat. Clearly, it is in our best interest to preserve these important vegetative environments. Increasing ship traffic to the magnitude required to accommodate this huge coal terminal can have only harmful effects on the Columbia River Estuary and the entire Vessel Corridor. It is not temporary - the effects on our salmon fisheries, fishing industry and recreational fishing will be considerable and not able to be mitigated.

Another important problem is that when coal dust enters the Columbia, which it inevitably will, it will increase acidification of the river and then the ocean. Washington is a leading producer of oysters and further acidification will harm this lucrative industry.

The best thing for Washington is to deny this 401 Water Quality Certification.