

Pat Dick: I'm Pat Dick. I'm from Cowlitz County, inland – I'm not affiliated with the oyster growers. I can't even eat oysters. But I think they're really valuable, their culture. They filter the water and they act like the canary in the coal mine. They tell us a warning about the health of the bay. I believe the growers have the highest interest in the quality of the bay and they can be trusted because of that self-interest. Despite the stressors of acidification and rising water temperature, burrowing shrimp and lack of help by government agencies that should help them – so far they've managed to hang on. After they stopped using Carbaryl due to opposition they searched for an alternative.

Now they've proposed the current proposal. After study the government says they need more study – as if they can freeze time. [unintelligible] Let's do a full-scale test. Let's issue the permit. Let's study it in our hip waders out there. Otherwise, the degradation continues. The oysters die. The native grass deteriorates. The diversity declines. The bay deteriorates further and becomes fit only to receive septic waste from more winter and recreation homes. Thank you.