

Tim Hamilton: Hi. For the record my name is Tim Hamilton. I live in McCleary, Washington. I am president of Twin Harbor's Fish and Wildlife Advocacy, which is a nonprofit organization. I've spent a lot of time in fisheries management and sat in on a lot of different advisory boards with the Department of Fish and Wildlife. I've also spent 35 years – from congress to state – 14 state, city, county, and local, and including DOE as an advisor coming from the small business sector of petroleum. So I'm a problem. I never did get the answer to my question. Though I appreciate, Dereck, your response.

Who provided you this information -- that there was no economically viable option, other than spraying? Where did it come from? If I was an oyster grower in another part of the state could I come to you and say "I don't think I can use 20% of my oyster beds unless you let me spray" would that be allowable? Would you go for that? Would you go with me if I come along and say I need to cut my timber and you say don't do that. [unintelligible] Is Willapa and Grays Harbor in the state of Washington? Why are we doing this? The other part, that is most important, is it doesn't end here. As a small businessman, a small businessperson, all my life I can tell you it won't end with you. You're going to cause a fight. If you go forward with this the key will be to explain to the citizens who have the right to know whether their seafood is being sprayed. That will put those who are trying to grow in a different more practical manner environmentally at a disadvantage. People in Kansas won't be able to tell a difference between a sprayed Willapa oyster but they will remember the state of Washington. You can help these people, -- I really appreciate that -- but the solutions that you're coming to are going to cause more harm to them and to our reputation in our Bay than you can imagine. So if your goal is to help oyster farmers you have to treat them equally the same and don't put one at a competitive disadvantage with the other. That's just the premarket price. That's free enterprise. There are going to be people who will pickpocket on these burrowing permits and those who don't use it will get tagged with the same negative reactions as others. If you don't think the public is that strong, walk down the Safeway aisle and look at the word "organic." Look at it. Watch how people -- you do not have a long-term sustainable purpose using spray. I'm not an oyster guy, I wish I had a solution for you. But this sure as heck isn't it. Thank you.