

Ross Barkhurst: Okay, I am going to address some leading indicators we should be looking at. As to the state of the Bay, it is not as pristine and healthy as some would tell you. I'm going to [unintelligible] some salmon populations, herring, waterfowl, and Willapa Bay [unintelligible] of naturally spawned fish. And I'm going to take you through the cycle from 2002. Chump salmon started out about 108,000 – dropped down to about 10,000 during the period we were spraying Spartina. I got my pesticide permit and I participated in that. It was displacing everything we had. Had to be done. The good thing was it was a one-off. We got rid of it. And now it just gets a little clean up from Mr. Nesbitt. But we've never bounced back. You can see it hovering around 20,000 – which is the escapement level. There's no commercial harvest until it [unintelligible] 3 years in a row, hasn't been able to do that. Recreational fishermen harvest about 150 a year. No impact.

The next thing you see is herring -- 700 tons herring spawning mats in 2002, measured by WFW. You see it really wobbling during the Spartina spraying, down to zero. No herrings spawning in the Bay. They quit measuring herring spawning mass. At my encouragement they started up again this year. What they found in 2017 was zero. Okay? Spartina spraying stopped in 2008 -- a massive amount. And so what we're doing is removing their spawning structure, which is eelgrass. The next thing you see is waterfowl. 2002, about 100,000. By the time we were through getting most of the Spartina out of the bay about 10,000. As soon as that was over it began climbing. In 2014 you see 100,000 waterfowl again. This is the peak in November. In 2014 we start spraying eelgrass, 22,000. The next year, 14,000. Last year, about 8,000. The lowest number of waterfowl in modern history -- while the waterfowl in the fly away is doing just great. But they can't use Willapa Bay any more.

The last chart on the right shows how a Willapa Bay Chinook escapement of natural spawnings is on the ground to spawn again. There's a goal that we publish in Noah of about 4,300 and we had a little bit less than that in 2010 – the first year we had marked fish so we could tell who was wild and who wasn't. Steady drop. Steady drop, a little up, and now we're down at the lowest number of escapement spawning Chinook since we were able to tell by markings who was who in 2010. So here are 4 leading indicators that show us that we're not doing well at all. I can put a 4th chart there, for really the mother of this whole food pyramid we've been talking about all night. And that would be acres of eelgrass. But since we're spraying eelgrass, in keeping with tradition, we don't have it anymore. Hasn't been mapped since 2016.

So there's no way you can do a cumulative effects analysis – what you're calling cumulative effects does not look at these 4 leading indicators, and does not take them into account. If somebody else removed 90% of an organism -- that doesn't give you the right to move the last 10%. Means you can't remove any more. That's cumulative analysis, and we would hope that you would start taking a look at it. Thank you.