

## Lisa Belleveau

I do NOT support the use of pesticide in the estuaries of Willapa or Grays Harbor!! I commented against this a couple years ago and the permit was withdrawn just to have them try to push it through again!

I do NOT approve of the killing of a native species, via poisoning the ecosystem, so that a non-native oyster can flourish! Imidacloprid will kill more than just the target invertebrate and cause damage to these delicate estuarine systems. Many species rely on these productive systems (specifically the benthic invertebrates) to survive; such as salmon, crab, and shorebirds. Salmon and Dungeness crab are NATIVE commercially valuable species and the use of this poison will adversely affect them. These 2 estuaries are incredibly important rest areas for shorebirds as they migrate and without productive benthos to feed on the impacts could prove to be catastrophic! This particular insecticide has been linked to declines in bee populations which could impact many other valuable crops in the near future. There is more to think about here than the decline of one non-native species farming operation. What about the decline in salmon and crab populations? They too are extremely valuable commodities. Perhaps there could be another solution, such as enhancement of oyster beds by the addition of gravels instead of poison. It could potentially cost a similar amount and have a MUCH less detrimental impact on the delicate ecosystem. There must be a way to work WITH the system rather than destroy it for the benefit of a non-native aquaculture operation.

I STRONGLY oppose the approval of this permit and hope that the Department of Ecology denies this application.