

Dwight Eager: My name's Dwight Eager. I'm from Chinook, Washington. I'm here on behalf of CRCFA, which is Columbia River Crab Fishermen Association – which represents most of the crab fishers in Willapa Bay and out of the Columbia River area – Chinook, Ilwaco, and somewhere on the other side of the river – Warrenton, [unintelligible] and Astoria.

I don't know if you're aware of it but the Dungeness crab industry is the cornerstone of the commercial seafood industry that's left on the coast. So any demise to that would be pretty much the failure and exodus of most of the commercial fishing on the coast of Washington State. We understand that supplemental EIS statement discusses impact to juvenile Dungeness crab. Our president of the association – Dale Beasely, who is unable to attend today – will be submitting written comments to address the science of the matter, specifically. In the meantime, I am here to let you know that CRCFA believes the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement supports the issuance of a national pollutant discharge elimination system permit. I think I got that right – that's worse than having 3 grandkids that all have first names that start with "t." CRCFA fully supports this control program and the oyster growers in their endeavor to maintain the valuable habitat that their shellfish beds provide. It's our opinion that shellfish beds provide valuable, three-dimensional habitat that juvenile Dungeness crabs rely on for survival. And burrowing shrimp destroy this habitat. So thank you for this opportunity to talk about this. We appreciate your effort and we fully support the oyster growers and their permit effort.