

Kathleen Moncy: A little bit shorter than the rest. Kathleen Moncy from Bay Center in Pacific County. I am a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation in the oyster farming business. I grew up oyster farming with my dad in Willapa Bay. Our current family farm exists only in Willapa Bay. We have no other source of what we work on – all of our oysters will be coming out of Willapa Bay.

Our community is an extremely important community here in a rural area. The oyster industry is the largest economic employer in our area – second to the government. And we are the ones that employ a lot of the people that are existing in our local school districts. We are the ones that are being sport coaches. We are the ones that are really holding and fueling our community and pushing it forward. Without something that we can build to control the burrowing shrimp infestation we really have no tool that we can manage on our farms and we can be able to be successful for the future. As a second generation coming into this business, it's absolutely important that we have a mechanism to control burrowing shrimp for the future – for my generation and hopefully for the future of my kids' generation. That people would take into consideration that we would do anything to negatively harm the area that provides our sole source of income is absolutely beyond something that I can think about.

I have 3 young children and as a mother I take pride in what I do for a living and the farm that supports our businesses – our business and the people that work for our businesses. This is our community. These are our homes. These are our livelihoods and we are currently seeking a permit so that we can be able to apply Imidacloprid on our farms as a control measure so we can continue farming into the future. As a 5-year permit – that's a very short window into the one farming cycle that we'll be able to utilize – but it's a really short window of something that we're not constantly have to be looking at other ways and constantly improving ourselves or going after another permit for the same thing for the next [unintelligible] years.

This is not the only issue that we are currently facing. It is one that is the most important because it has a significant current impact on our farms in being able to take away our ability to farm. But we've got issues like ocean acidification that are coming at us -- things that we have no control over. And we can't spend our time and resources looking at other alternative of how we're going to move our farms and businesses forward when we don't have a current permit to implement the solution to an issue that's viable to the success of our farms.

As has been spoken before, the infestation of burrowing shrimp is something that we are not looking to eradicate the species. It is a species that exists and there are predators that do exist on this – that do predate on this and so we're only looking to control a certain percentage of the estuary to create what we would consider buffer zones that would then protect large vast amounts of land. [unintelligible] work of all the farmers that are going to work for this is really important because between all of us we create a giant barrier that protects vast amounts of quantity of land which is a rare habitat for crab. It's an important area for birds and it's also an important area for fish. So collectively working together as a community and gathering up as a community and being solution oriented towards what we can move forward with is really important to the oyster growers. How we're really looking to work with the department of ecology to be able to put together this permit and have it be able to work within our current

community. I would also look for ways to constantly improve our selves. Because being innovative in our industry, we always have to look for better solutions. And this is really important for what our oyster growers need to do to move forward so we can continue to have a successfully community – not only for our industry, but for the other industries that exist around us. Thank you.