

DATE: October 30, 2017
TO: WA State Dept of Ecology
FROM: Lisa Olsen
Citizen and Pacific County Commissioner
RE: Comment on Imidacloprid draft SEIS

I am writing to encourage your department to go ahead with the permit which would allow the oyster growers in Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor to spray the burrowing mud shrimp which is infesting their grounds and eroding their farms at an alarming and emergent rate.

I attended both of the public hearings on this topic earlier this month and the consensus of the testimony against the spraying was that there just wasn't enough science yet to allow it. This does not indicate a harm to the bay or the ecosystem that exists in and around it. No one that makes their home and/or living on and around this bay intends to do anything that would harm same. In fact, it seems that doing nothing would do much more harm to the bay itself than allowing the control of this infestation. And waiting for who knows how long it would take to satisfy everyone that this spray will not deleteriously effect our area will be a death knell to the oyster industry and Pacific County as a whole. And for what? To err on the side of caution in this instance will have an outcome that would never be recovered from. Continue to study by all means, but allow this industry to survive while you do so.

Those that I heard contest have virtually nothing at stake and contend to destroy a history, economy and way of life of those that have everything at stake and everything to lose should the bay be poisoned – whether by infestation or chemical.

Please do not allow a lack of science nor political pressure to destroy the largest economy in Pacific County.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this situation.