

Kathleen Moncy: My name is Kathleen Moncy and I reside in Pacific County. Thank you again for the opportunity to come and testify in front of you guys today. This permit is about a powerful local tradition, our rural economy, and ecological stewardship. As a mother, active committee member, and a multi-generational farmer in Willapa Bay, I strive for a healthy estuary that promotes growth in a rural economy. Burrowing shrimp threatens the livelihood of our community. After a decade of research with over half of those in universities, and millions of dollars later, this is the only viable solution we have to implement. We need to support this permit as we continue to innovate and evolve together.

The ecology value that is being discussed today -- of crab, fish, eelgrass, and oysters – are at the highest where farmers are operating. Oyster farmers protect the ecology of the estuary and always have and always will. This is our home. We would never do anything that would degrade that home or do anything to harm it. This is our livelihood. This is where we raise our families. This is where we participate in our community. And by you supporting this permit and issuing it to us, it allows us to continue to thrive in an economy that has lots of different issues that are affecting it across the boards.

We would like to continue to be able to thrive in this community and have the next generation of oyster farmers that's available for our children and hopefully for our children's children. As only a 2<sup>nd</sup> generational farmer, I hope that my kids can stand up here some day as a 5<sup>th</sup> generation farmer, like we have in the background. Willapa Bay has been the estuary that it has and it's been that way because oyster farmers have been operating there for over 150 years. If you ask anybody who has been defending the bay and protecting the bay for that 150 years, you come down to our community and it will be people saying the oyster farmers have been there.

So I please ask you to issue this permit so we can continue to support and thrive and to also continue to work with us to look at other innovate solutions – because this is our future and this is what we really need to look at so we can continue to be there for the next 150 years. Thank you.