

Don Gillies: My name is Don Gillies. I'm a resident of Pacific County and owner and operator/manager of Stony Point Oyster Company, established in Willapa Bay by my family in 1868. So I'm a fifth generation shellfish farmer. I want to state that I'm in full support of the issuance of this permit from Ecology to allow the shellfish community to tackle this problem. I've got a list here of points I wanted to make listening to and reading your literature that was supplied today. First of all, the point I want to make is that the Department of Ecology issued a permit in 2015. The process was completed and Ecology did their duty to evaluate the permit and the application was approved.

So I'm wondering – I know that between that time and now some minute amount of new evidence has surfaced and needs to be evaluated but over all I can't see where any of that would precipitate a change in the original decision. Ecology did not withdraw the permit on their own and so they should stand by what they decided back in 2015. The evaluation of the impact of Imidacloprid – I have a little statement here talking about crabs. But Dwight did a good job of describing that – I'm in full agreement with him. I can also tell you that crabs absolutely devastate my seed. Every year I lose 20% of my seed crop to crab predation. So we are feeding the crabs.

As far as reduction in the food source, that is a point being made by ecology. A lot of people don't understand, but if you think about it the oyster culture provides way more food source than any kind of monoculture desert land that burrowing shrimp ends up becoming. If burrowing shrimp are allowed to continue to infest the privately held oyster lands in Willapa Bay without control the oysters will disappear and the food source will disappear. So there's way more food sources available if you have an oyster culture than monoculture burrowing shrimp land.

Impact bay-wide? Certainly a concern. And due diligent by Ecology to consider and understand the impacts. It's hard for me to get my head wrapped around how much impact a temporary modification on 1% of 40,000 acres could have so – I'm just, I'm just – maybe I'm not scientifically able to understand that, but – this room. Let's say this room is 100 x 100 and 1% is 1 square of this floor. Another topic that was to try to fill in knowledge gaps and I can say from my layman's standpoint that knowledge gaps never go away. There are always knowledge gaps and I would implore the Department of Ecology to decide on the facts that are presented to them, and what the facts that they have now – and not hopefully go – . Okay. That's it.