

Seth Book: Hello. Can everybody hear me here?

Fran Sant: I think they can. Can you tell us where you live – and your name?

Seth Book: My name is Seth Book. I live in Kimilchie, Washington. Just surrounded by [unintelligible] inlets in the South Sound – South Puget Sound. I work in a water [unintelligible] field in the mid-canal region. In my free time I help my friends grow oysters in the South Puget Sound -- on a muddy tideland with burrowing shrimp. I'm a first-generation shellfish grower and I'd like to be on the record that my oysters are the best. I also would like to say that I appreciate being here today and listening to all these comments. It's actually been informative for me. I mean not only from you all but from the people like Dick. That was a very interesting story. It was very informative. I appreciate that. I also really appreciate the history of the Willapa Bay. In the last few hundred years, through the culture and the stewardship of the shellfish growers – I believe that they're real people that want to do the right thing. I also believe in the livelihoods of the people of Pacific County but I also believe in the livelihoods of other people in other counties in the state that rely on shellfish – such as Mason County, where I reside. Where I work.

So I want to also say that many of my comments that I heard tonight did echo my own concerns. I'd like to echo some of these things – like the uncertainty of impacts of us of Imida – I'm just going to say the pesticide – in the aquatic environment. That's one of my concerns. The uncertainty – or the perceived uncertainty of the persistence in this area – I think there needs to be more science in that area. I think that's a concern that should be looked at because of past things that we have done where we have not considered those persistent impacts. I'd also be interested in more about the [unintelligible] effect of this. And we won't really know about these things until we do some of them, so it's kind of like an experiment – which I think that maybe we should use more of a precautionary type of thought process and not do something until we really know more about it. So I would suggest using the option that did say no pesticide at this time. If we do find further evidence that this has no impact whatsoever – very very low impacts I would potentially be interested in looking at stuff like this because it does appear that there is a burrowing shrimp issue in Willapa Bay and whatever that reason is there should be more investigation, that matters as well.

But I think my main concern – I'm speaking as a 1st generational shellfish grower and speaking as a person that works in water quality issues that's not a big fan of chemicals applied to the aquatic environment – is that the precedent that this decision would send to the rest of the shellfish growers in the Puget Sound – and in Hood Canal, especially. I think it would be a sign to a lot of people that they potentially could do this. Because the way we do our oysters is a method that mitigates against that burrowing shrimp. If I know that we don't have the same concerns of the muds and the sands but we do have – I mean I sink up to my knees if I go out there – and so – and it's pretty much a mud flat. There's nothing there except like some worms and stuff like that. But I'm sure there are lots of other things that are edible. There's lots of cutthroat trout there actually [unintelligible]. So yeah that's it, thank you.