

# Drayton Harbor Oyster Company

Drayton Harbor Oyster Company  
PO Box 171  
Blaine WA 98231

November 29, 2017

Department of Ecology  
300 Desmond Drive SE,  
Lacey, WA .98503

RE: Docket #: new rule - Chapter 173-228 WAC, Vessel Sewage No Discharge Zones

Drayton Harbor in northern Whatcom County has been the focus of years of effort to improve water quality in this small bay. Last year, after 20 years of work and millions of dollars of infrastructure improvement, the bay was upgraded to fully approved allowing for the year-round harvest of commercial and recreational shellfish. We know maintaining clean water is a tenuous thing. There are plenty of examples, both locally and nationwide, where shellfish growing areas are cleaned up then slowly slide back to earlier conditions. The work of maintaining clean water is never done.

Every day commercial and recreation vessels past by our farm and with each passing we wonder if they are aware of the potential impact they could have on the health of our product. Our farm is within a mile of two marinas which provide moorage for hundreds of commercial and recreation vessels. Most of the vessels have year-round slips, some are just passing through. As the grower, we do what we can do to notify vessel owners of the sensitive crop in the bay but never really know if they fully understand the potential impact of discharging waste near the farm. It is for this reason we believe it is time to remove the grey area which surrounds this question. We believe Department of Ecology's new rule establishing Puget Sound as a no discharge zone does this and support the department's effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully

Stephen Seymour  
Steve Seymour, Owner  
Drayton Harbor Oyster Company

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