

# Port of Ilwaco

To whom it may concern:

The Port of Ilwaco, located at the mouth of the Columbia River in SW Pacific County, is providing comments to emphasize the importance of the shellfish industry in Pacific County and to support efforts being taken to control burrowing shrimp in Willapa Bay.

The seafood industry plays a large role in the economy of Pacific County. In particular, the shellfish industry centered in Willapa Bay provides year round employment for hundreds of direct jobs , in addition to supporting local infrastructure, public services and many other indirect benefits in our rural coastal community. Our local shellfish industry relies on the health of Willapa Bay. The best available science and years of research has gone into developing the NPDES permit application.

We strongly urge you to consider the impacts to our local community when making your decision on this matter. Local growers in the shellfish industry have a vested interest in the health of Willapa Bay. Alternative practices and control methods could be considered as they are developed in the future. Denying the permit application without a current control method could have long term unintended consequences for our community and in some areas of Willapa Bay.