

Joe Mallahan

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Hi. I'm Joe Mallahan. I'm a business person. I live in Seattle. I'm a regular boater in the north Puget Sound and have harvested shellfish and finfish from the north Puget Sound for over 50 years. My biggest concern, again, in your table in this section. I apologize. I don't have the section in front of me, where you list hours of response for nonfloating oils. There is really -- in an earlier discussion during Q&A there is really no sort of goal stated to retrieve as much of the oil as possible before a reasonable period in which you would consider it highly likely that it would sink.

Again, as you well know, the currents and the tides in the north Puget Sound are severe. And once that oil has left the surface, it can be broadly distributed and can be very, very hard to track. And the impact to sea bed creatures and obviously to the orca is so -- the risk is so severe that it seems to me rather than saying within twenty-four hours you should have equipment that is able to recover oil that's on the sea bed, it should be within 24 hours you captured all of the oil on the surface before it has a chance to fall.

And again, Q&A, we have -- I realize you're trying to construct language that is applicable statewide, but to me -- either you or the operator of the vessel should have a very clear understanding of what that material that he is carrying, how long it's going to be on the surface before it sinks. And if the answer is less than 24 hours, then the response should be to recover that oil from the surface within 24 hours.

Now, that may seem cost-prohibitive, and I understand you have a cost-benefit analysis responsibility, but we're talking about the San Juan Islands, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the entire habitat for resident orca, and I think everyone understands a major spill where the oil actually is submerged has a massive threat to the orca in addition to all the other sea bed creatures. It's such an extraordinarily diverse and vibrant environment there, and there is really, I can't imagine how you mitigate that once it's on the sea bed at that depth and with that kind of movement of water. So, again, that's my statement. Thank you.