

Ron Buckholt

From: Pyke Johnson <pykeandkay@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 4, 2022 11:08 AM
To: Ron Buckholt
Subject: Project #2022103702
Attachments: DSCN4327.JPG; IMG_0551.JPG; IMG_0558.JPG; IMG_0619.JPG

Dear Mr. Buckholt:

I am writing to express my opposition to the Shoreline Development Project # 2022103702 in which Taylor Shellfish Company is seeking authorization to create a large aquaculture project on the shores of Henderson Inlet. My wife and I have lived on Otis Beach Road, Olympia, for over 20 years. We bought this piece of property because we loved having access to a beach where we could enjoy the pristine beauty of South Puget Sound. We love to take walks on the beach, particularly at low tide, when many unusual sea creatures can be found. We love to kayak and enjoy the easy access to the sound our property provides. Our children and grandchildren have spent countless hours on our beaches, overturning rocks and shells, searching for small crabs, and trying to evade the ever-present geoduck squirts. A few photos of our beach activity are attached.

Naturally we were very concerned when we heard that Taylor Shellfish is seeking to develop a large aquaculture project in our front yard. We are worried that such a large project would interrupt the natural ecosystem of this area of the sound with no appreciable benefit to the residents. The primary goal of the Shoreline Master Program for the Thurston Region is "to preserve to the fullest possible extent the scenic, aesthetic and ecological qualities of the Shorelines of the Thurston Region in harmony with those uses which are deemed essential to the life and well-being of its citizens". In my opinion the proposed project would destroy much of the aesthetic and ecological quality of the sound with no benefit at all to the residents. How can the addition of hundreds of thousands of plastic tubes buried in the shoreline sands be beneficial to anyone?

South Puget Sound is on a migratory bird flyway. We love to watch these transient birds in our waters as they feed here in preparation for their continued journey. I understand that geoduck tubes have to be covered with netting to protect the seedlings from predators. What happens when diving birds get tangled in the netting in their quest for food? Many of the local birds, such as cormorants, are divers. They would be adversely affected as well.

Having to negotiate fields of plastic tubes to launch kayaks would make the activity more difficult and dangerous. What happens when power boaters get their propellers wound in netting, or get prop damage due to contact with plastic tubes? What happens when the plastic tubes get broken, and more plastic is set afloat in Puget Sound? We are trying to improve the quality of the water, not degrade it.

Those of us who live in the Henderson Watershed area have paid additional taxes for years, to help fund cleanup activities. We have been good stewards of the land, having our septic inspected regularly and undergoing county die tests every six years. We are very much aware that we live in a beautiful but fragile area and try to do everything possible to preserve its ecology. Having a commercial shellfish farm on our shores seems counterproductive to preserving the natural beauty and ecology of Henderson Inlet. Section Two, Paragraph V G of the Shoreline Master Program states that "shorelines of this Region which are notable for their aesthetic, scenic, historic, or ecological qualities should be preserved. Any private or public development which would degrade such shoreline qualities shall be discouraged. Inappropriate shoreline uses and poor-quality shoreline conditions shall be eliminated when a new shoreline development or activity is authorized".

I don't know what impact thousands of plastic tubes imbedded in the sand of Henderson Inlet would have on water quality, tidal flows, or the natural flora and fauna of the region. I cannot imagine that it would be good.

I am strongly opposed to this project and am requesting that it be disallowed. Thank you for your consideration.

Pyke Johnson
9143 Otis Beach Road NE
Olympia, WA 98516
(360) 402-4537
Email: pykeandkay@msn.com