

From: martas@olypen.com
To: [Sonja Cady](#)
Subject: Fwd:
Date: Friday, January 12, 2024 5:29:14 PM

----- Original Message -----

Subject:

Date: 2024-01-12 16

To: Hearing Examiner Rice

RE: Project #: 2022103702 Taylor Shellfish/Manzanita Geoduck SSDP

Because technical difficulties prevented me from attending Tuesday's public hearing online, I would like to go on record as saying I am against issuing the permit for the farming of geoducks in Henderson Inlet at this time.

I believe the county should be forward-looking in its role as the leader of the world's supply of geoducks and that it should disallow decisions that are made at the expense of residents and organisms in our Puget Sound.

I would first like to highlight the department's condition number 5 (Shellfish culturing shall not occur within 10 horizontal feet of eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) or kelp). I understand that there has been an eelgrass survey, but it is admittedly outdated and has some inaccuracies. A new eelgrass survey conducted by a neutral third party surely seems in order, especially in light of the gigantic documented eelgrass meadow at nearby Joemma State Park. As a sailor, I have a special interest in kelp, though, which is the macroalgae I mean to emphasize in this letter. I am aware of a kelp forest on this side of Squaxin Island that is under evaluation. Even closer to the proposed site, there have been several kinds of kelp documented in Henderson Inlet itself. I would implore you to insist on a current kelp study for condition number 5. Maybe a kelp study could be carried out at the same time as the eelgrass study.

The other issue I want to highlight also relates to my significant sailing experience. I sail in all seasons. The prevailing strong wind in winter along the shore of the proposed site is predominantly from the north. It is biting cold but brings high waves as it blows down Case Inlet and across one of the most wide-open areas of the sound. The beach in question is one of the first points of land for the high waves to hit. In the summer and at other times during the rest of the seasons as well, the wind frequently blows from the southwest. It can be very strong but does not affect the beach there as violently as the winter north wind. The strongest wind of all, in my experience, is when there is a storm directly from the West where it builds momentum all down Dana passage until it hits the wide opening, and again, this beach is the first landfall. I concur with others who have experience here that planting geoducks on the beach will bring a very high incidence of displaced gear. It will necessitate a very long period of netting as

well.

Please do not allow geoduck planting on this unsuitable beach. In the meanwhile, ask for a determination about kelps and eelgrass.

Sincerely,

Marta Allen

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