

CASE INLET SHORELINE ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 228
Vaughn, WA 98394
EIN 26-0780797

*Preserving and Protecting Pristine Case Inlet for Future Generations, Focusing on
Community Stewardship, Education, and Scientific Research*

Dear Case Inlet Neighbor,

Conflicts between responsible Puget Sound shoreline use and expansive, invasive aquaculture abound. While progress has been made by alliances of concerned citizens to promote enforced regulation and scientific studies, much more help is needed. Now is a critical time and we need your support. The new methods of large scale aquaculture operations will forever change the face of our shoreline.

A key issue is the Taylor/ Foss repeated appeals of the Pierce County Hearing Examiner's ruling that substantial development permits are required. Without the requirement for these permits, shellfish operators can move their operations into your neighborhood without your prior knowledge or ability to have a say in the matter.

This has already happened in many Thurston and Mason county locations, where development permits are not required. Totten Inlet is a prime example. Over 90% of Totten Inlet, 30 miles of shoreline, is now consumed with geoduck tubes, oyster bags, rebar stakes, and predator nets.

Residents have been prohibited from using their beaches. They were forced to remove buoys and swim rafts and are continually harassed and intimidated by shellfish operators.

And, by the way, the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has turned a blind eye while Taylor has been illegally farming on state owned land, a minimum of 16 acres in Totten Inlet, without a lease for over 10 years.



Totten Inlet

Unless we support enforced regulation, permitting, and peer-reviewed scientific studies NOW, here are a couple more examples of what we have to look forward to:

* Limited Beach Access and Navigation Rights



Beaches, where you have enjoyed strolling are being declared as off limits with 'No Trespassing' signs and industry patrolled enforcement. (e.g. property north of Joemma State Park, farmed by Taylor Shellfish and the Foss family)

Tideland boundaries were never an issue for most citizens until shellfish operators started running people off the beaches, putting up no trespassing signs and engaging in lawsuits where industry lawyers claim "if your kayak paddle hits the ground under the water, then you are trespassing".

Adjacent to Joemma State Beach

* Habitat Destruction

Industry continues to target Puget Sound's most pristine areas for aquaculture. Case Inlet is a primary target for aquaculture expansion. Their methods include scraping, contouring, and dredging the tidelands, removing (often killing) natural habitat in the areas to be planted, re-routing natural streams, spraying chemical pollutants, covering tidelands with predator nets and oyster bags, installing toxic PVC piping, rebar stakes, and fencing.

All of the above is done with the industry claiming it is 'good for the environment' while there is little or NO peer-reviewed scientific research to back their claims. They continue to cite irrelevant studies of Chesapeake Bay restoration with oysters. Citizens living near aquaculture farms have observed significant decreases in diversity of native species and water clarity.

July 4, 2008 Seattle Shellfish ran a tractor on the fragile tideland to install and maintain the 1000+



kiddie pool seed incubators. While the Puget Sound Partnership is set to spend millions of taxpayers dollars to protect Puget Sound, the shellfish industry is allowed to engage in this type of destructive activity without permit, public comment or environmental review in Mason and Thurston Counties.

In past weeks we have seen how lack of regulation in our financial markets have helped bring down global economies. Are we going to stand back and let flimsy regulation of the aquaculture industry destroy our Puget Sound ?

We greatly appreciate your past donations. But our cause is not over. Continuing education and legal defense fees are substantial. It takes all of us working together to contribute and ensure a healthy Puget Sound for now and generations to come. No donation is too small or large. All donations go directly towards efforts to preserve Puget Sound. All labor is contributed by dedicated volunteers.

Please help by sending your tax deductible donation today to Case Inlet Shoreline Association, a Washington State nonprofit corporation. Use the enclosed envelope and include your email address for periodic updates of important information.

Sincerely,
Richard H Wooster

President
www.caseinlet.org



High volume harvesting—Allyn, WA July 4, 2008