

Citizen Email to DNR and Mason County – May, 2009

I would like to follow-up on my March 1st e-mail (sorry for it being 8 mg) containing a letter and photographic evidence of the environmental destruction since Taylor's introduced geoduck "farming" in Case Inlet about five years ago and what appears their uncontrolled expansion. If you need me to resend the e-mail please advise.

It's been two months. I appreciated Rich's acknowledgment and advising I'd be hearing more in about two weeks. Despite an April 4th request for status I've received no response from any government official the e-mail was addressed or copied.

I appreciate the vast, complex and disconnected government structure - which as a mere citizen creates the perception that our government officials have granted themselves a license for inaction. The excuses and runaround - try Fish and Wildlife, Department of Nature Resources, County Commissioners, etc., combined with an apparent lack of leadership lead one to conclude the interests of the environment and residents are valued less than Taylor's political contributions (both financial as well as providing shell fish products for various politically-related functions). To avoid taking action stating Taylor's is operating on private property, without validating the integrity of those boundaries (i.e., Reginald Engman leases) despite Taylor's history of encroaching on State and private property is irresponsible at best, criminal at worst. It appears Taylor's relationship with various government departments and officials affords them the luxury of influencing policy to their financial benefit and detriment of all else.

I don't know how to be more clear. The equipment and tools Taylor's employs in their business is killing everything that interferes with their geoduck farming/harvest (i.e., salmon fry have lost the vast acreage of eel grass, crab, sand dollars, sea star, eagle, otter, even whales can't survive in this environment).

It is unbelievable the state of denial you must live in if you believe there is insufficient evidence of the environmental destruction caused by Taylor's practices. Taylor's sponsored research by the University of Washington to document the impact of geoduck farming/harvesting on eel-grass. I spoke with those from the University who performed the study and I have seen video of their presentation that concluded geoduck harvesting destroyed eel grass. Considering there is a fish hatchery at the North-end of Case Inlet, and salmon fry need the eel-grass for protection, it is even more disconcerting our government has elected to ignore this evidence rather searching for researchers to support Taylor's business model.

This apparent inability/unwillingness to act is unacceptable. How much more must Taylor's kill or destroy before these environmental issues are addressed.

I will continue to raise reach out to whomever is necessary to garner support and action.

While it is overwhelming, I look forward to a response identifying which agency or elected official is ultimately responsible for the protection of our environment, including the protection of eel-grass, salmon, eagle, water quality and pollution, all detrimentally impacted by Taylor's geoduck farm.

Feel free to forward this e-mail on to any office/agency that may assist, including but not limited to the Governor's office or appropriate federal agencies.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Name Withheld