

March, 2010

Good Day,

I was given your name as a contact in the hope of possible help in a desperate plea for help. Help with a terrible act of genocide that happened before my eyes on the beautiful beach where I live. The Geo Duck farmers, Seattle Shellfish, was digging up the beautiful purple Sand Dollars and dumping them by the wheelbarrow full to the highest point on the beach to die! They were eradicating this creature from their Geo Duck beds. I approached the workers asking what they were doing and their reaction was relocating them so they can feed the world. I ask them if they felt anything at all and why did they have to kill these beautiful creatures and totally remove them from this beach. They said the Sand Dollars were not dead and besides they didn't have a brain and it wasn't like they were crushing them. They stated that they would migrate back to the same site and that is why they erected a fence to keep them out. This is one of the most absurd, ridiculous occurrences I have ever witnessed! I stopped, walked up to the pile of literally thousands, picked one up and its once soft purple feet were dry and lifeless...DEAD. I turned with tears streaming down my cheeks filled with grief, sorrow and disbelief for what my species had done and called them heartless, unfeeling beasts. They said we are feeding the world. I replied "Feeding your pockets with greed!" I announced I would be calling the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission and went back to my home. I proceeded to take pictures and witnessed one of the workers relieving himself on the beach which is captured in a picture but may be too far away to see his male member also in one picture was glass jar left behind by them also. So being after business hours I decided to call the next day which was March 23.

I did just that, 8:00 am I called the headquarters Fish and Wildlife in Montesano. The receptionist assured me she would have an officer contact me shortly. I gave her my full name address and cell phone number. Off to work I went, patiently awaiting that phone call to no avail. March 24th I decided to call the Olympia office of the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission. This time I spoke with Lori Preuess 360-902-2930, she was so gracious and agreed it didn't sound like it was the right thing to do but did not know the laws and assured me she would have an officer contact me asap. She took my name address telephone number and stated they may want to come to my beach which I welcomed. Again off to work I went and waited for that phone call, again no call came. Again I watched in horror as the workers of Seattle Shellfish worked into the late hours of the night digging and dumping the helpless Sand Dollars up the high side of the beach next the bluffs. I became so upset I called again the Montesano Fish and Wildlife to hear a message advising to call the State Patrol, so I did. I spoke to an officer told him my plight and he said he would contact an officer and I should hear from one shortly. After waiting for quite some time I had to get some sleep around 10:30 pm I gave up and went to bed but the Geo Duckers were still in the KILLING FIELDS working away until God knows when, killing and killing and killing again.

March 25th I called Lori at the Olympia office and got her answering machine. I left a message in tears telling her I thought they were the stewards of our earth looking out for the animals and working for the protection of the species not in the best interest of the killers. I had heard from no one and were they waiting until the job of killing was finished until they addressed this issue? She returned my call leaving a message on my phone assuring me an officer, a captain would be in contact with me and they were so short handed they were doing what they could. Still no phone call until March 26th about 12:30 pm an officer called, very abrupt and said "you called?" Silly me I thought he would have been told why I called - NOT - so I began asking if it was legal for the Geo Duck farmers to remove and kill the Sand Dollars from their planting field, he interrupted me and stated I have been on annual leave and the Geo Duck Farmers were allowed to kill any living creature that interfered with their crop! I was devastated and with disbelief thanked him (for what I still do not know) and hung up.

I was crushed and decided to try one last thing....before pulling into my drive way I decided to go to my neighbor where the Geo Duck farmers were working on their beach area and inform

them of what was happening. After my conversation they said " It is not our beach, we weren't given the rights when we purchased our home, sorry. My heart sank. I went home and to my dismay, the diving barge was on the killing site now and now it was time to remove the native geo ducks so there was a sterile field ready to plant. During the last two years I have lived on this beautiful beach I have witnessed more than this in destruction, I have witnessed the clubbing of the Sea Snail shells where Jim Gibbons himself announced he does this regularly because they eat his Geo duck. I have see human feces on the beach from his workers because apparently no facility is provided and of course urination right in front of me not even hiding. I even have a photo capturing one urinating. This is appalling and must stop. I will not give in and let these greedy, killers prevail without one more try for help. Please is there anything you can do, anything? Even if you can guide me to someone else that may help. The Sand Dollars do not have a voice that most humans can hear so I will be their voice "Help stop the killing" What is next and what will be the effects on our environment and our beautiful Puget Sound? I love living here and all the gifts that have been entrusted with are disappearing right before our eyes. Doesn't anyone care?
Thank you for your time,

Name Withheld.