

From: Bill Taylor <BillT@taylorshellfish.com>
Date: Tue, Jul 8, 2008 at 10:09 AM
Subject: Response to allegations of Taylor illegal use of Totten Inlet State tidelands
To: "Rep. Kathy Haigh" <haigh.Kathy@leg.wa.gov>, "Rep. Pat Lantz" <Lantz.Patricia@leg.wa.gov>, "Rep. Maralyn Chase" <chase.maralyn@leg.wa.gov>, "Rep. Larry Seaquist" <seaquist.larry@leg.wa.gov>, "Rep. Dave Upthegrove" <upthegrove.dave@leg.wa.gov>, "Rep. Christine Rolfes" <rolfes.christine@leg.wa.gov>, Senator Tim Sheldon <sheldon.tim@leg.wa.gov>, Senator Karen Fraser <fraser.karen@leg.wa.gov>, Senator Mike Carrell <carrell.michael@leg.wa.gov>, Senator Ken Jacobsen <jacobsen.Ken@leg.wa.gov>, Senator Derek Kilmer <Kilmer.derek@leg.wa.gov>, Lynda Karseboom <karsebol@sao.wa.gov>, Jay Manning <jaym461@ecy.wa.gov>, "Jeff Koenings (koenijpk@dfw.wa.gov)" <koenijpk@dfw.wa.gov>, "Dicks.David@psp.wa.gov" <Dicks.David@psp.wa.gov>, "Drew.Kathleen@gov.wa.gov" <Drew.Kathleen@gov.wa.gov>, "ckleebe@co.pierce.wa.us" <ckleebe@co.pierce.wa.us>, "kruppd@co.thurston.wa.us" <kruppd@co.thurston.wa.us>, David Bricklin <Bricklin@bnd-law.com>
Cc: Laura Hendricks <laura.l.hendricks@gmail.com>

Dear Legislators, Agency staff and local officials,

Yesterday you were all copied on an email from Laura Hendricks to Larry Raedel, the DNR chief of law enforcement. In that email, Ms. Hendricks accuses Taylor Shellfish of intentionally committing illegal acts, defrauding the State, and influence peddling. Because of the very personal nature of Ms. Hendricks' attacks on my family's company, I feel compelled to respond.

Here are the facts of this case:

The area in question has been farmed for shellfish for over 50 years. Taylor Shellfish purchased the farm that we believed included the area in question in 1972. Since that time, we have continued to farm the same area that was historically farmed by our predecessors and that is now in dispute. Until this issue was recently raised by Ms. Hendricks, Taylor Shellfish had no idea that any of our activities may be occurring on State lands.

As soon we learned of this issue, we began working on a survey to precisely locate the property lines in question. We also ceased any harvest of geoduck from the area in question until this issue is resolved. We have been working closely with the DNR to obtain a precise understanding of the property boundaries at issue (the final survey should be completed in the next few weeks), and we will continue to fully cooperate with DNR to resolve any issues relating to our use of the area in question. I assure you all that any and all Taylor Shellfish planting and harvesting of shellfish on unleased state lands in Totten Inlet was completely unintentional.

Please feel free to contact me at anytime if you have questions or want further information about our company. We look forward to working together to ensure that we can ALL enjoy a healthy and productive Puget Sound for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Bill Taylor