



LISTSERV 14.5



**Date:** Wed, 7 Jan 2009 22:07:35 -0500  
**Reply-To:** [\[log in to unmask\]](#)  
**Sender:** East Coast Shellfish Growers Association <[\[log in to unmask\]](#)>  
**From:** Robert Rheault <[\[log in to unmask\]](#)>  
**Subject:** [Fwd: Urgent help needed with some public comments]  
**Content-type:** multipart/mixed;

[multipart/alternative]

Folks,

I am passing along this request from Bill Dewey on the West Coast. They have gotten into a battle with some folks who don't like to look at shellfish farms and have ended up in a legal battle of absurd proportions. They are fighting for the rights to harvest clams that they planted and reared that are now ready to harvest. Unfortunately they planted the clams on grounds that they purchased but grounds that were never properly surveyed - so they are technically on public grounds. If you can find the time to send a letter of support by 4:30pm Thursday (PST) it might help. see below.  
 Bob Rheault

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

**Subject:** Urgent help needed with some public comments  
**Date:** Wed, 7 Jan 2009 13:51:47 -0800  
**From:** Bill Dewey <[\[log in to unmask\]](#)>  
**To:** [\[log in to unmask\]](#) <[\[log in to unmask\]](#)>

Bob,

We are seeking some \*URGENT\* help from the shellfish community with public comments in support of a lease from the Washington Department of Natural Resources for tidelands in Totten Inlet. If appropriate would you consider forwarding our plea out to the East Coast Shellfish Growers Listserve?

The tidelands we've applied to lease are ones that we've believed we owned for the past 36 years. This past spring in response to a complaint from shoreline owners opposed to geoduck farming we surveyed the property. The survey showed that much of the area historically farmed in fact belongs instead to the state. Prior owners including the oyster farmer Bill Taylor's father purchased it from in 1972 have farmed this same area since the early 1900s. Apparently the actual area described by the deed had never been surveyed. It is very high on the beach with little use for growing shellfish.

We've been actively working with the Department of Natural Resources to resolve this problem since it was discovered in April. DNR has determined an appropriate fee to charge for past use of the land. They have also decided the best way to address the oyster and geoduck crops we have planted there is by granting us a five year lease to harvest them.

Part of the process for leasing public property is a review of the effects of the proposed activity under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). This review considers environmental, economic and community impacts. DNR has preliminarily issued a Mitigated Determination of Non Significance and is seeking public comment on that determination. We're asking people to take a few minutes to send in a supporting comment. The local NIMBY organizations are working it hard attempting to stack the comment deck against us. 81 pro 74 against is the current tally.

You can view information about the proposed lease and comments received to date at:

[http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/SEPAAquaticResources/Pages/amp\\_sepa\\_agr\\_totteninlet\\_feb.aspx](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/SEPAAquaticResources/Pages/amp_sepa_agr_totteninlet_feb.aspx)

Below are draft comments that people might consider sending if they agree with them. Submit comments by email to: [\[log in to unmask\]](#) <mailto:[\[log in to unmask\]](#)>. Include in the subject line "Comments on SEPA File No. 08-122201".

\*Comments must be received by 4:30 tomorrow! \*

If people have the time personalize the comments. If you don't just copy and paste the message below.

If you have questions please feel free to contact me by email or call 360-790-2330.

Thanks for considering my request and I wish you all the best for 2009!

To: [\[log in to unmask\]](#) <mailto:[\[log in to unmask\]](#)>

Re: \*SEPA \*File No. 08-122201 -- Taylor Shellfish Totten Inlet Lease

I support the Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance (MDNS) finding by DNR for their environmental review of the proposed tideland lease to Taylor Shellfish Company. I also support leasing the tidelands to Taylor Shellfish to resolve the disposition of the oysters and geoducks they have planted on the land in question.

This area has been farmed by others with shellfish since the early 1900s and by Taylors since 1972. Only recently has it come to light that the property actually belongs to the state. Leasing the tidelands to Taylors to resolve the unintentional trespass is a good option for several reasons. It allows them to recoup their investment in the crops planted there. It also provides significant revenue to the State when it is sorely needed. Eighty percent of the lease revenue goes to the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account which is used to restore aquatics lands and improve public access to them. Finally, it restores several jobs that were lost when farming on this land ceased with the trespass discovery this past spring.

I support leasing these tidelands to Taylors so this beach can continue its long history of commercial shellfish production and reputation for producing some of the finest shellfish in the world.

Sincerely,

/Bill Dewey/

Taylor Logo 10-9-00

Taylor Shellfish Company

130 SE Lynch Rd.

Shelton, WA 98584

Phone (360) 426-6178

Direct line (360) 432-3334

Fax (360) 432-3344

Cellular (360) 790-2330

www.taylorshellfish.com <<http://www.taylorshellfish.com/>>

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