

Thurston County Commissioners=

Briefing Session Summary

Date: April 16, 2002

Time	Dept/Office	Attendees	Discussion/Topics	Results/Direction
10:30	OPBD / EHD	Note Taker: Mark J. Swartout Ext. X Krupp X Wolfe X Oberquell X O'Sullivan Art Starry – EHD Bob Woolrich – WDOH Don Melvin – WDOH Tim Ransom - PSAT	This was an informational briefing with representatives of the Washington Department of Health regarding their proposed upgrading of commercial shellfish beds in the Nisqually Reach	The following were discussion points made by WDOH staff: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It will take about two months before WDOH will issue the final order upgrading the commercial shellfish beds. 2. This should be taken as good news. 3. The upgrading may indicate a trend in improved water quality. 4. The water quality standards that are applied to commercial shellfish beds are set at the federal level and are very strict. For instance Washington state's water quality standard in AA Waters for fecal coliform are 50 organisms / 100 ml while for shellfish areas are a geometric mean of 14 organisms / 100 ml. 5. It takes very little fecal coliform contribution to cause the water to exceed the standards. In other words the test results shouldn't be interpreted as gross pollution. 6. The water quality will most likely always be marginal so diligence is required to continue maintaining or improving water quality. 7. The Board agreed that continuing the work of the shellfish protection district is important.