



Creating Wealth from Knowledge

February 9, 2012

Thurston County Hearing Examiner
Thurston County Resource Stewardship Department
Building #1, 2000 Lakeridge Drive, SW
Olympia, Washington
98502

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Project 961372 SSDP Taylor Shellfish Company – Mussel Farm Totten Inlet

I am writing with regard to the Taylor Shellfish Company application for a mussel farm to be located in Totten Inlet, Thurston County. Globally, the culture of shellfish has been shown to be an environmentally friendly and sustainable means to produce healthy protein from the ocean. As global fisheries come under continued stress, the United Nations has identified that seafood production will have to double in order to feed the global population of nine billion people expected by 2050. This increase will have to come from aquaculture. As evidenced locally by the expert review conducted during the Totten Inlet Application EIS, farms such as the one proposed by Taylor Shellfish can help fill this gap while having low levels of environmental impact and in many cases beneficial effects on water quality.

The development of local shellfish farming also produces year round employment in rural areas, promotes the preservation of healthy marine ecosystems, requires high levels of water quality and adds to local food security. Shellfish farming has the potential to contribute significantly to trade imbalances in seafood as well. During 2010, the US seafood trade deficit surpassed \$10 Billion dollars annually and is expected to increase in the future. Simply put, there are not many non consumptive and environmentally sustainable economic opportunities that exist anymore for rural coastal communities than those that can be met by shellfish farming.

In 2011, I had the opportunity to review the existing mussel culture operations held by Taylor Shellfish Company as well as the current EIS during an independent operational review conducted on behalf of the Portland Based non-profit Food Alliance (www.foodalliance.org). The Food Alliance provides comprehensive third-party certification for social and environmental responsibility in agriculture and the food industry. Today, there are more than 320 Food Alliance Certified operations, and over six million acres managed by Food Alliance Certified producers throughout North America.

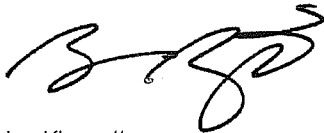
Food Alliance certification for farmed shellfish provides a trusted and independent third-party audit process for certifying socially and environmentally responsible management practices in shellfish farming operations and handling facilities. The Food Alliance Shellfish Sustainability Standards address the following areas of concern: soil and water conservation, fish and wildlife conservation, healthy, humane care for shellstock, safe and fair working conditions, and shared resource management. It looks to prior and existing operations and sets goals for continuous improvement.

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Taylor Shellfish met all the requirements posed by the Food Alliance, and my review of the Taylor Shellfish mussel farming operations in Totten Inlet was significant in that Taylor Shellfish was the first shellfish farm in Washington State to meet the rigorous certification standards and one of the first two firms in the USA to do so. Meeting these standards recognized the leadership that Taylor Shellfish demonstrated in the areas of environmental and social sustainability and their commitment to continual improvement in these fields.

An objective review of the application should recognize the beneficial community and environmental aspects of the proposed operation.. If you have further questions regarding my observations and prior review of the applicants operations please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely



Brian Kingzett
Deep Bay Field Station Manager
Independent Auditor 2011 Food Alliance Certification

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