

Phone (360) 412-0808  
Fax (360) 412-0809  
Email [spsseg@spsseg.org](mailto:spsseg@spsseg.org)  
Web [www.spsseg.org](http://www.spsseg.org)

6700 Martin Way East Suite 112  
Olympia, Washington 98516

February 9, 2012

To whom it may concern:

Taylor Shellfish has been a successful and iconic business in the South Sound for many years. The shellfish industry relies heavily on clean water and healthy watersheds to maintain harvestable levels of shellfish. Salmon share similar requirements and the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group and Taylor Shellfish have worked collaboratively for many years. Taylor Shellfish has contributed financial and technical resources to many local and regional restoration, education, and conservation projects to highlight the importance of clean water and healthy watersheds for shellfish, salmon, and for us all. One such education project is the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail (KCST). The KCST is located on Taylor Shellfish property near Shelton and is a regional destination for the community to observe and learn about the chum salmon life cycle. This is a community project with over 5,000 visitors per year that would not be possible without the support of Taylor Shellfish.

Taylor Shellfish has demonstrated the ability to work collaboratively with other organizations and stakeholders while supporting many other worthwhile causes in our Puget Sound community. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to work effectively with this business to sustain clean water and healthy watersheds into the future.

Sincerely,

Lance Winecka

SPSSEG Executive Director

Prepared by Mary DiMatteo  
To be presented 13 February 2012  
Thurston County Permit Hearing  
RE: Taylor Shellfish Mussel Farm Expansion, North Totten Inlet  
To be Presented (possible) by Jennifer Hopper, Taylor Shellfish

The proposed addition to the Taylor Shellfish mussel farm in the North Totten Inlet of Thurston County supports local economy, has little to no adverse or long lasting effect on ecologic function of Totten Inlet and is a cultural activity which is parcel to the defining character of Puget Sound.

Emotional connection exists to our natural world. With that connection comes responsibility of ensuring activity of any kind is in consideration of impact. The impacts of proposed mussel farm have been outlined, studied and determined overall to not be an environmental threat to the Totten Inlet according to a five person independent review board of PHDs specializing in water ecology and biology.

The following information has been collected from the Environmental Impact Statement prepared according to standards written in the RCW.

#### Concerning Local Economy

“The proposed additions to mussel farming will create 8 new full time jobs.”

#### Concerning Water Velocity

“There would be no significant unavoidable adverse impacts to water circulation as a result of the proposed project.”

#### Concerning Benthic Activities

“Therefore, the effects of management activities on benthic communities are unlikely to impact forage productivity to a degree that would impair or even influence normal feeding and rearing behavioral patterns in the action area.”

#### Concerning Southern Resident Killer Whale Population

“Operation of the proposed 58-raft mussel farm would have little or no significant effect on Southern Resident killer whales because of their low level of occurrence in Totten Inlet, and the fact that whales would move away from any human activity disturbance in the immediate vicinity of the mussel rafts. Whales would be more likely to travel in the deeper parts of Totten Inlet.” The same can also be said for the Chinook salmon and critical salmon habitat.

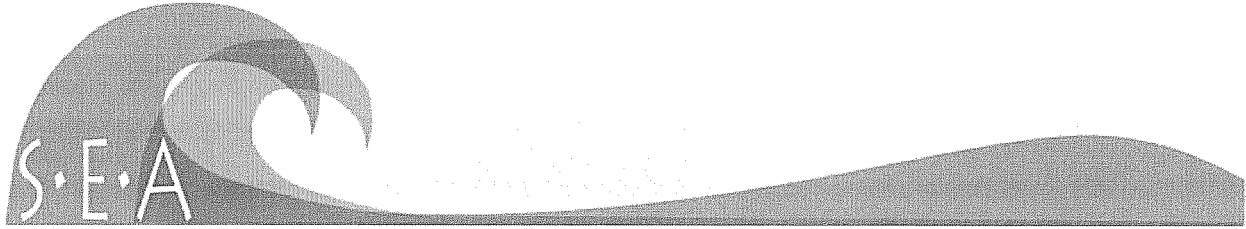
#### Concerning Navigation and Recreational Boating of Totten Inlet

“The mussel raft would be equipped with required aids to navigation, no significant unavoidable adverse impacts to the navigable waterway would be anticipated.

#### Concerning Native Mussel Population

“There would be no significant unavoidable adverse impacts to the genetic make-up of native mussel populations in North Totten Inlet as a result of the proposed project with either action alternative.”

Thank you.



**February 13, 2012**

**To: THURSTON COUNTY HEARING EXAMINER  
Thurston County Courthouse  
Building No.1, Room 152  
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW  
Olympia, Washington 98502**

**Re:Project #: 961372 SSDP / Applicant: Taylor Shellfish Company**

**My name is Susie Richards and I am the Co-Director of SEA, a non-profit marine education organization. I am writing to support the application of Taylor Shellfish Company and their proposed mussel raft in Totten Inlet. I have had the opportunity to collaborate on a wide range of education programs with Taylor and have been incredibly impressed with their commitment to education and to being an organization that care deeply about the health of Puget Sound. I feel confident, based on what I have learned about the ethic of Taylor (primarily through their wonderful educators, Nicole and Jennifer Hopper) that this project will be handled in a way that does not cause harm.**

**Thank you for your consideration.**

**Susie Richards  
Co-Director  
Service, Education & Adventure  
sea@whidbey.com**