

Margenex International

FIELD REPORT

DATE: April 7, 2009 1355-1417 PDT
PROJECT: North Totten Inlet Mussel Farm EIS
SITE: Taylor Shellfish “Old Plant” site
ADDRESS: 8033 Hargis St NW
Shelton, WA 98221

STAFF: Mark Pedersen
Number: 200710
Weather: overcast.

Objectives: Characterize and photograph beach where new mussel farm float frames will be assembled and launched.

Observations: I was accompanied to beach at the “Old Plant” site on March 19, 2009 by Taylor staff Antonio Franco and Evan Sanate. The beach was characterized as moderate slope, semi-protected beach at the base of a steep bluff. Substrate consisted of large gravel with a few cobbles in the mid-tidal zone with smaller gravel, sand, and heavy oyster shell hash in the upper intertidal to the toe of the embankment. According to the WDFW PHS Database, the beach is not documented for rock sole, surf smelt or Pacific sandlance spawning, nor as potential spawning habitat for those species. Pacific herring, however, are documented to spawn in subtidal waters off this reach of beach (near the entrance to Gallagher Cove).

The last high tide prior to the site visit, according to NOAA tide tables, was +10.9 ft MLLW at 11:59. The water’s edge at the time of the site visit was approximately +8.4 ft MLLW. Four cement anchors were embedded in the substrate at approximately 100-foot intervals, at about the +9.5 ft MLLW elevation. These are used for mooring new rafts that are under construction.

According to Mr. Franco, the only substantive work occurs just below these anchors when constructing new raft frames and above the +1.0 MLLW level, upon which the substrate is too soft to work. Frame assembly begins at lower low tides and the completed frames are floated off the beach and then towed to the chosen location. According to Taylor staff, the site is a long-standing point of entry and egress to the beach. There is a gravel ramp where trucks can back down to the beach. The site is used several times/week (even several times/day) by Taylor's Oyster Department and Clam Department (personal communication with Gordon King, Mussel Department Manager, Taylor Shellfish, April 6, 2009).

Measurements were taken from each anchor to the toe of the bluff:

- #1 (northern-most); 24 ft #2: 18 ft
- #3: 22 ft #4: 24 ft.

At 14:13 the water’s edge was 42 ft from the toe of the bluff.

Figure 1. Looking South from the North End of the Old Plant Site.



Figure 2. Substrate of the Work Area.



Figure 3. Looking North from the Boat Ramp.



Figure 4. Aerial View of Old Plant Site.

