

**REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON EIS SCOPE OF WORK:
TAYLOR RESOURCES NORTH TOTTEN INLET MUSSEL CULTURE**

PROJECT PROPONENT:

Taylor Resources, Inc.
Diane Cooper
SE 130 Lynch Road
Shelton, WA 98584

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL:

Taylor Resources proposes a 58-raft mussel culture operation in North Totten Inlet. The mussel raft structure would cover an area approximately 1.38 acres in size. This proposal has been modified from the original application for which Thurston County issued a *Determination of Significance and Request for Comments on the Scope of the EIS* September 14, 1998. Taylor Resources has reduced the scope of the proposal to the North Totten Inlet site only, eliminating the plan for expansion of the mussel growing raft structure at the mouth of Gallagher Cove.

Thurston County is currently inviting additional comments on the EIS scope of work at this time due to: 1) the amount of time that has passed since the Scoping process was originally conducted, 2) the change in the description of the proposal, 3) the addition of an alternative to the proposal to be analyzed in the EIS, and 4) additional detailed information now available describing the proposed scope of work for field studies to be performed to address EIS elements of the Aquatic Environment.

LOCATION OF THE PROPOSAL:

The proposed new mussel raft structure at the North Totten Inlet site would be located approximately 700 feet offshore, northwest of 85th Avenue, in unincorporated Thurston County.

Section/Township/Range: NW ¼ Section 4, T 19N, R 2W,
Willamette Meridian, Thurston County.

THRESHOLD DETERMINATION:

Thurston County (September 14, 1998) determined that this proposal would have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment, and therefore required preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to RCW 43.21C.030(2)(C). This decision was made after Thurston County, as SEPA Lead Agency, reviewed a completed Environmental Checklist and other information on file. The appeal period for the SEPA Threshold Determination expired September 28, 1998, and is not reopened by this notice.

**ELEMENTS OF THE
ENVIRONMENT TO BE
ADDRESSED:**

Thurston County identified the following elements of the environment for which potential environmental impacts, including cumulative effects, may result from this proposal. An Independent Technical Review Committee has confirmed that these are the elements that should be studied. The County has required that a limited-scope EIS be prepared on these elements/issues:

Aquatic Environment: Ecological Impacts

Issues related to Water, Plants and Animals will be addressed in an EIS text section on the Aquatic Environment.

A. Impacts to bottom-dwelling organisms (benthic community).

- B. Impacts to the surrounding water column.
- C. Impacts to the phytoplankton resource, and the effects this could have on other aquaculture and aquatic life in Totten Inlet.
- D. Impacts caused by escapement and propagation of mussels.

Transportation: Navigational Impacts

- E. Impacts caused by navigational lighting.
- F. Impacts associated with boat navigation in and around the proposed mussel rafts at the North Totten Inlet site.

THE PROPOSAL AND ALTERNATIVES TO BE ANALYZED:

1. The Proposal: A 58-raft mussel culture operation at the North Totten Inlet site. Rafts approximately 30ft x 34ft in dimension.
2. Alternative to the Proposal: A reduction to 50 rafts (approximately 30ft x 40ft in dimension) separated into 10 groups of five with increased separation between rows to allow for periodic relocation of rafts within the bedlands lease area.
3. The No Action Alternative: No new mussel culture operation at the North Totten Inlet site.

SCOPING:

Agencies, Tribes, and members of the public are invited to participate in “refreshing” the Scoping process for this EIS by commenting on the revised proposal and alternatives, and on the proposed scope of work for elements of the environment to be addressed. Additional information describing the proposed scope of work and approach for field studies to address elements of the Aquatic Environment is available from Thurston County by request for the cost or printing. Comments are also invited on the probable significant adverse impacts of the proposal, mitigation measures, and permits or approvals that may be required.

Please mail written comments on the scope of the EIS directly to the address noted below. All comments must be received by 5:00 PM on April 1, 2002.

Jurisdiction:	Thurston County
SEPA Lead Agency:	Development Services Department
SEPA Responsible Official:	Dottie Trick, Acting Development Services Director
Date:	February 28, 2002

Environmental Review Officer

cc: Department of Ecology (2)	Sub-Area #1
Interested Parties	Adjacent Property Owners
Thurston Co Environmental Health Dept.	Lee Ruddy, President, A.P.H.E.T.I.
Thurston Co Roads & Transportation Services	Lisa Pelly, Chair, WFW Commission
Roads Development Review	Margi Shirato, WDFW
Washington Department of Transportation	Jim Fraser, WDFW
Kim Van Zwollenberg, WDOE	Ron Teissere, WDNR
Squaxin Island Tribe	Gale Blomstrom, WDOE
U.S. Coast Guard	Bob Goodwin, Washington Sea Grant Program
Interested News Media (<i>Olympian, Tacoma News Tribune</i>)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mason County Planning Department	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Kristine Van Gorkom, WDOH	National Marine Fisheries Service
Mike Donovan, WDOA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Alternative for North Totten Inlet Mussel Farm.

