From: Sturdevant, Ted (ECY)
To: Clingman, Tom (ECY); Bouta, Cedar (ECY);
Subject: FW: Predator nets that "catch" things. E0006
Date: Sunday, October 03, 2010 11:51:30 AM
Attachments: DSC_0098.jpg
IMG_0742.jpg
IMG_0744.jpg
P1010426.jpg

For inclusion in the public comments.

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From: Kim Merriman [mailto:kim@kimmerrimanart.com]
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2010 10:15 AM
To: Sen. Karen Fraser; Sturdevant, Ted (ECY)
Subject: Predator nets that "catch" things.

Hi Karen and Ted.

I'm sending this to the two of you first. I'm still making a list of who else it should be sent to.

I am concerned about the armoring and predator nets that are associated with intensive geoduck farming in the tidelands.

The fish and wildlife that depend on these areas for survival are public resources and the geoduck farmers shouldn't be allowed to harm or kill the public resources for private gain.

Below is a prime example of one of the things I have been so concerned about w/ respect to netting/armoring stretches of beach.

Why I got so involved in the practices of "shellfish industry" to begin with is because one of the mating/breeding pair of eagles near me (you've seen their nest) got stuck a few summers ago. It, thankfully, got free when I ran out to save it. I have been afraid ever since that there isn't going to be someone around to help one that gets stuck...in every situation.

First, there's a photo of "my" stuck bird from a few years ago. I sent it on to the industry lobbyist, too. That's what prompted Mr. Gibbons to visit the same beach right afterward to try and discuss my concerns w/ him.

But look at what is in front of where they live and breed! An even more sad situation is watching the parents trying to teach their young how to "hunt" on and around the nets. I have dozens of photos showing that very thing as well.

This particular tide was out several hundred feet and was on its way in. It would have drowned the eagle within minutes had it not gotten free.

The Dept. of Ecology is in the process of evaluating their policies with respect to the geoduck/shellfish industry. They are also charged with protecting the shoreline and the near shore environment/ecosystems. To me, this issue cannot be ignored. It is ALL the publics' resources that are at issue. That means the waterfront property owners, the recreational users, those not even aware of such industry on "their" public shorelines, and the industry's interest to expand.

I have also asked the WDFW what their policy is w/ respect to protecting the habitat in front of and around breeding/ foraging areas. It seems clear to me, this particular nest (in this location) is to be protected from such things.

If you want to see their response to me about the policies with respect to active eagle nests and what the regulations are for protecting them, please let me know. I have sent the email exchanges and web links from WDFW to Gordon White (DOE).

These next three photos are really distressing. This happened about a week ago on the shoreline of Totten Inlet. The woman who took them, because she stumbled upon them while walking with her grandson, was shaken by what she and he saw.

IMG_0742.JPG

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"WALK GENTLY ON THE EARTH, AS IF THE FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT. IT DOES!"