From: Linda Lentz
To: ECY RE Shoreline Rule;
Subject: Comments regarding proposed changes to Shoreline Master Program E0020
Date: Monday, November 22, 2010 8:05:21 PM

Ms. Cedar Bouta and Ecology staff,

Ecology's proposed changes to the Shoreline Master Program are very concerning in the complete disregard of the importance of Aquaculture to our state. Our state has something like no other state in the country has and that is Puget Sound, our Coastal Shorelines and Bays. One of the things that makes our Shorelines so important to our state is that our waters (at least in some areas) are still clean enough to produce healthy and nutritious farmed shellfish. In fact Washington produces more farmed shellfish than any other state. We need to protect and preserve this asset for all the people of our state. Aquaculture has an overall benefit to the water quality by the filtering abilities of the shellfish which helps offset the increasing amounts of nitrogen flowing into the Sound and Bays from upland development and storm water drainage. Aquaculture also has an economic benefit to our rural communities in providing jobs. Historically our state was built on the use of our tidelands for farming shellfish and producing food and jobs.

- Aquaculture areas need to be protected in the SMP and is of "Statewide Interest".
- Aquaculture should be the preferred use for the SMP because it actually benefits Puget Sound and it's shoreline and provides habitat.
- Language should be restored designating subsistence, commercial and recreational shellfish beds as "critical saltwater habitats.
- Aquaculture requires and is always dependent on the use of the water area and the WAC should define it as so.
- A huge effort went into the SARC recommendations which Ecology should use in the SMP to reflect the intent of HB 2220.
- The economic impact of these changes would be devastating to all shellfish farmers and would also negatively affect communities and the state.

I am a first generation Shellfish farmer in Southern Puget Sound and a 6th generation descendant to the pioneers that settled here. My hope is that my children and their children will be able to continue to enjoy the rich bounty of shellfish that brought my ancestors to this area. We are depending on the Department of Ecology to do the right thing to prioritize and protect our ability to continue sustainably farm shellfish in our waters of the state in their SMP.

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