

**From:** [Liz Wiegardt](#)  
**To:** [Rockett, Derek \(ECY\)](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on Permit Application WA0039781  
**Date:** Sunday, December 07, 2014 8:30:54 PM

---

To: Washington Dept of Ecology

I am writing in support of the Willapa/Grays Harbor Oyster Growers Association application for a permit for the control of burrowing shrimp (Permit # WA0039781).

My husband was Jack Wiegardt, whose family has been in the oyster business in Willapa Bay since 1874. During the late 1950s and early 1960s, along with the other oyster growers, Jack could see the potentially devastating effect that burrowing shrimp were having on the Willapa Bay oyster industry. He put significant resources into trying to develop and experimenting with natural methods of controlling the shrimp, and came to the conclusion that there were no technologies available for controlling the shrimp population and saving oyster ground other than chemical sprays.

My home is on Willapa Bay. I have a strong commitment to the environment. I buy organic food whenever possible, and support organic farming. However, I have done a lot of my own research on this issue of how to control burrowing shrimp and have come to the same conclusion as my husband -- at this point I don't see any natural technologies for controlling the shrimp. I hope someday there will be.

In the meantime, I believe that the Willapa Bay shellfish industry is worth protecting -- for economic, historical, and environmental reasons. For almost 150 years, the oyster growers have been strong advocates for water quality in Willapa Bay because they know how crucial it is to their livelihood. All Washington state residents can be proud of having one of the cleanest estuaries in the country.

With the extensive monitoring and other safeguards that would be part of this permit, I believe that the overall benefits of allowing this limited use of the pesticide imidacloprid far outweigh the negatives. I urge you to approve the permit.

Thank you,  
Carole Wiegardt  
PO Box 1  
26912 Sandridge Road  
Nahcotta, WA 98637