

From: Eycke Strickland

Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 9:03 PM

To: zSMP

Subject: Comments: Clallam County Shoreline Management Draft

Comments:

We are the stewards of one of the most beautiful and pristine areas on this continent, and it is our responsibility to pass this treasure on to future generations in better shape than we found it.

Our shoreline ecosystems are diverse, dynamic, fragile and sensitive environments that serve as the nursery for many of our marine species. It is important to provide strong protection and management of these areas in order to preserve ecological functions and values of our natural environment, as well as the protection for the public health, safety and welfare of our community.

1. SETBACKS are needed:

Watching houses that are built too close to the shore and along rivers slide into the water, should be warning enough. A 200 ft setback is the safe setback to protect homes from failing bluffs for a 75 year period, as well as homes along shorelines that could experience sea level rise and stronger wave action over this period. The Shoreline Management Act's jurisdiction is 200 ft from the mean high water mark, which will change over time, for new buildings and major building remodels. Clallam County's Shoreline Master Plan should adopt the 200 ft setback.

2. AQUACULTURE is harmful to the environment. The attached videos deals with the concerns of Norwegian scientists about one of the viruses affecting farmed Atlantic salmon which can infect wild salmon. <<https://vimeo.com/70399899>>. For several reasons, my family and I do not eat farmed fish, or other farmed seafood due to the fact that they are being fed drugs (antibiotics) to keep them from dying before they reach our tables.

Both fin fish farms in the open waters and industrial sized shellfish projects bring a number of harmful pollutants as well as a variety of impacts to large and minute (e.g. sand) animals.

I am dismayed that the WA State Department of Ecology, NOAA, the USEPA and other agencies are all promoters of these industries, possibly for economic purposes, although the economic benefits are for the owners (some of these companies may not even be American owned) of these projects and the pollution, once done, they move on. In many places, communities are pushing back in the courts.

The following language for the Clallam County Draft Management Plan is recommended:

1. Establish a moratorium on new aquaculture until the current pending court cases are resolved, to avoid the duplication of costly litigation for Clallam County.
2. Change wording when considering new or expanded aquaculture from “best management practices” to “best available current science.”
3. Fin fish project shall be sited upland. Disallow fin fish fin pens from the SMP plan area and in water. Penned farms in open waters pollute bottom lands and wildlife.

3. BEACH ISSUES — MINING

We are trying to protect, not destroy the beaches. Beaches are our commons and important to marine life. Mining for sale or mining to nourish a beach elsewhere damages the beach and surrounding ecosystems from where they are extracted. I propose disallow beach mining - the removal or transfer of natural beach materials.

Global climate change is clearly upon us, with the early impacts being felt around the world and here in Clallam County. Our temperatures are rising, our snowpack is receding, glaciers melting, flooding has increased and our regional sea level is rising. All of these will have a significant impact on our shorelines, infrastructure, water supplies, and our human health. Clallam County should prepare for climate change with regard to its SMP.!

1. Therefore, we strongly urge the Planning Commission to reschedule its recommendations to the County Commissioners so that it can incorporate the findings of the Planning for Climate Change on the North Olympic Peninsula – an ongoing effort funded through the North Olympic Peninsula Resource Conservation & Development Council (of which Clallam County is a member), is due in draft form 6/30/15 and in final 8/31/15.

2. Please delay final recommendations until we have the results of this study.

Respectfully submitted:

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