

From: [Kip Tulin](#)
To: Robyn_Thorson@fws.gov
Subject: Proposed Oyster Bed Lease in Dungeness Bay
Date: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 5:46:42 PM

Robyn Thorson, Regional Director
Regional Director's Office-R1
USFWS Pacific Region
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland OR 97232-4181

Dear Director,

I am greatly concerned that the oyster farming lease is being allowed to go forward in the Dungeness Bay. I do have a vested interest in that I live two miles from the Bay and my friends and I have frequently rowed our boats there over the last 10 years.

The whole area is truly an accessible wonder to hikers and rowers alike. I have seen it in its many phases from flat water to whitecaps and enjoyed rowing in the huge ebb and flood tides during the King Tide periods. It is these very forces that make me wary about having acres of plastic bags affixed to the intertidal zones. There is an amazing amount of flotsam that enters and leaves the bay, and some could surely play havoc with the bags. Some articles I have read (<https://blogs.umass.edu/natsci397a-cross/7135-2/>) show that oyster farming is especially destructive to eel grass, which is one of the many treasures of the bay.

In the short term, I understand the financial incentive. In the long term I worry that with climate change all kinds of aqua cultural farming techniques will be short lived and only leave behind ecological destruction, similar to many extractive industries throughout the centuries: old mine tailings, uncapped old oil wells, denuded landscapes....and the list goes on. And even if remediation were possible, by the time the damage is done, the companies who promised to be stewards of the lands and waters will be out of business leaving the cleanup tab to us.

Please do not allow the lease in this very precious area to proceed.

Most Sincerely,
Kip Tulin, MD
kip.tulin@gmail.com
341 Bay View St. Sequim, WA 98382
360-912-2115