

**Exhibit C**

**Public Correspondence received as of  
August 20, 2015**

## Summary of Public Meetings Concerning Clamming in Tillamook and Netarts Bays

During the past four years (2011-2015), ODFW held five public meetings in Tillamook and Netarts to discuss issues regarding commercial and recreational clamming. ODFW staff presented information about ongoing bay clam stock assessment work, the status of bay clam fisheries monitoring, and options for management of the commercial and recreational fisheries. Each meeting was well publicized, well attended, and provided a good venue for sharing information and documenting public opinion. Early meetings focused on historical information, research and management goals, and plans for future studies. The three meetings in 2013 and 2014 summarized the bay clam stock assessment data and how that might be used in future management decisions. The most recent meeting (May 2015) included presentation of five specific proposals for changes to the commercial bay clam fishery, and feedback received during and after the meeting was used to refine and modify the proposals. Public participation was good (15-43 people) at all of the meetings and many stakeholders shared their opinions representing concerns from both commercial and recreational perspectives. Beyond the scope of formal meetings, ODFW staff regularly responds to questions and comments regarding many aspects of bay clamming. The range of positions and opinions is broad but generally remains focused on a few key issues; the allocation between sport and commercial harvest, historical vs. current stock status, and the need for more monitoring and enforcement.

More detailed notes on public attendees and their input and questions are available separately below.

North Coast Bay Clam Fishery Management Meeting

Tillamook - October 26, 2011

The goals of the meeting were to:

- 1) Increase public awareness of our research and monitoring efforts in Tillamook and Netarts bays
- 2) To address concerns over how we manage bay clam resources in the area
- 3) To gather public input as we identify management priorities

SEACOR Stock Assessment Status Update Meeting

Netarts - October 21, 2013

The purpose of the meeting was to provide:

- 1) An update for local residents on the status of the ongoing SEACOR stock assessment work in Netarts Bay
- 2) A summary of recent statistics on sport and commercial fisheries for cockles in Netarts Bay
- 3) An opportunity for the public to make comments, to raise issues, and to ask questions about the SEACOR surveys and sport/commercial fisheries

Netarts Bay Clam Stock Assessment and Management Options

Netarts - November 18, 2014

The purpose of the meeting was to provide:

- 1) A presentation of results of a study conducted by Shellfish and Estuarine Assessment of Coastal Oregon (SEACOR)
- 2) A brief presentation of possible management tools for bay clams
- 3) An open forum for questions and comments

Tillamook Bay Clam Stock Assessment and Management Options

Tillamook - November 19, 2014

The purpose of the meeting was to provide:

- 1) A presentation of results of a study conducted by Shellfish and Estuarine Assessment of Coastal Oregon (SEACOR)

- 2) A brief presentation of possible management tools for bay clams
- 3) An open forum for questions and comments

#### Commercial Clam Rule Change Proposals

Tillamook – May 11, 2015

The purpose of the meeting was to provide:

- 1) A presentation including background information about commercial & sport harvests
- 2) The package of 5 proposed changes
- 3) The purpose of rule adjustments
- 4) An open forum for questions and comments

#### Input from Oregon State Police

OSP troopers have been involved in all public meetings and with enforcement actions throughout. Shellfish staff met with Todd Hoodenpyl and Todd Thompson in July, 2015 to specifically discuss the new proposed quotas, size limits, and harvest areas. They are comfortable with all of our proposals and aside from a few questions concerning the specifics on how we developed the quotas and harvest area lines, are ready to enforce them if adopted.

### Detailed Summaries of Individual Public Meetings

#### North Coast Bay Clam Fishery Management Public Meeting - October 26, 2011.

Oregon Department of Forestry building, Tillamook, OR.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Shellfish Program staff hosted a public meeting in Tillamook. The goals of the meeting were to increase public awareness of our research and monitoring efforts in Tillamook and Netarts bays, to address concerns over how we manage bay clam resources in the area, and to gather public input as we identify management priorities. We delivered a short presentation to summarize our recent work in the area, followed by an open discussion session. Comment cards were circulated to provide additional feedback by attendees.

Approximately 25 people attended, and many participated in the discussion. A number of recreational clammers attended, some of whom are members of local community groups. Active participants in the commercial intertidal and dive fisheries were also in attendance, as well as a wholesale clam dealer. Other attendees included a high school science teacher who conducts intertidal research, a tribal leader for the Coquille Indian Tribe, and an oyster grower. Oregon State Police Sergeant Todd Hoodenpyl and Trooper Kevin Peterson also participated in the meeting.

Our presentation began with recent findings generated by the ODFW / SEACOR surveys conducted in Tillamook Bay. Maps were displayed to illustrate the distribution and densities of bay clams in different regions of Tillamook Bay. The presentation also included an outline of the project's goals, and described how the data will be useful for management decisions. Questions following this presentation led to discussions of:

- The distribution of native littleneck clams limited to Garibaldi Flat;
- Physical data (temperature and pH) collected by ODFW and other agencies;
- Eelgrass densities and their stability over time; and
- Differentiating Manila and native littleneck clams.

Our second presentation provided an overview of the recreational and commercial clam fisheries of the north coast. The topics covered included fishery monitoring efforts, the fishery spatial distribution study, relevant regulations, and

the process by which rules are established. Estimates of effort and catch in both the commercial and recreational fisheries were provided, and they were framed within the context of historical information.

Following our presentations, several issues were raised that led to an interesting exchange of ideas and perspectives. The following topics were discussed as potential issues for continuing and new research:

- A need to understand cockle age and growth;
- Importance of the subtidal broodstock to sustain local populations;
- Local observations that cockles in higher densities have thinner shells; and
- Concerns about the impact of commercial harvest on cockle and gaper populations.

Other comments/concerns addressed at the meeting included:

- Concern that transporting clams can spread invasive species;
- A clam digger and buyer stated commercial clambers regulate themselves, and only take large clams;
- A commercial clam diver stated there is no market for gaper clams for human consumption; and
- A comment was made about broken and/or discarded clams from commercial clambers being wasted.

ODFW staff addressed each of the above concerns and/or requests. Some concerns will be dealt with by investigating specific aspects of clam biology. Others will be discussed by ODFW staff to determine how to approach a solution or identify a data collection project to better understand a specific topic.

In the event that specific proposals emerge from the community to change existing regulations, ODFW would like to form a group of stakeholders with various interests to examine each issue and proposal. The discussion identified several topics that could be addressed by an advisory committee and/or future public meetings. The following topics were raised as potential proposals:

- A commercial clam digger and buyer suggested a 3" minimum size on cockles for the intertidal and dive fishery;
- A concerned citizen suggested establishing a landing limit for commercial intertidal clam harvesters, or limiting the number of permits;
- A concerned citizen suggested prohibiting the harvest of gaper clams for crab bait; and
- A concerned recreational digger proposed a recreational-only area on the east side of Netarts Bay.

### **SEACOR Stock Assessment Status Update Meeting - October 21, 2013**

Netarts Fire House, Netarts, OR

Number of Participants: 68 public participants (28 general public + 40 students from Newberg High School)  
(At least 21 comment cards received)

ODFW Shellfish Program staff reported on the progress of their fieldwork. Specifically, they provided:

- 1) An update for local residents on the status of the ongoing SEACOR stock assessment work in Netarts Bay
- 2) A summary of recent statistics on sport and commercial fisheries for cockles in Netarts Bay
- 3) An opportunity for the public to make comments, to raise issues, and to ask questions about the SEACOR surveys and sport/commercial fisheries

There was a substantial amount of discussion and many questions received from the audience. Most of the questions were aimed at clarifying the sampling methods, clam biology, and the specifics of both recreational and commercial clam harvest techniques, relative harvest amounts, and licensing requirements.

**Netarts Bay Public Meeting - November 18, 2014**

Netarts Fire House, Netarts, OR

Number of Participants: 24-30 (13 comment cards received)

On Tuesday, November 18, 2014, the Shellfish Program delivered a public presentation about bay clam populations in Netarts Bay as well as possible management strategies. The meeting was held at the Netarts Fire House and was hosted by the Capes Watershed Council. The meeting itinerary included: 1) presentation of results of a study conducted by Shellfish and Estuarine Assessment of Coastal Oregon (SEACOR); 2) brief presentation of possible management tools for bay clams; and 3) open forum for questions and comments. Comments and questions were solicited during the open forum, through a comment card that could be completed at the venue or mailed, and some questions were asked during the presentation. The public meeting was advertised widely, and ODFW staff received requests for information by phone and email. Most people who were unable to attend were able to get the information they requested on the [SEACOR website](#).

The following are questions and comments that are representative of those received during the meeting and through emails, calls, and the comment cards:

Management & Regulations

Is there a size quota on cockle harvest by commercial clammers?

It sounds like there is overharvest in some areas of the bay by sport clammers. Are you planning any changes?

Will commercial harvest in Netarts Bay be prohibited?

People are unaware a shellfish license is needed or that there is a harvest limit. There needs to be more enforcement and education.

Please clarify the rules for clamming in oyster leases and make this information accessible and clear.

**Tillamook Bay Public Meeting - November 19, 2014.**

Oregon Department of Forestry building, Tillamook, OR.

Number of Participants: 15-18 (8 comment cards received)

On Wednesday, November 19, 2014, the Shellfish Program delivered a public presentation about bay clam populations in Tillamook Bay as well as possible management strategies. The meeting was held at the Oregon Department of Forestry and was hosted by Tillamook Estuaries Partnership. There were approximately 18 attendees, 8 of whom completed a comment card. The meeting itinerary included: 1) presentation of results of a study conducted by Shellfish and Estuarine Assessment of Coastal Oregon (SEACOR); 2) brief presentation of possible management tools for bay clams; and 3) open forum for questions and comments. Comments and questions were solicited during the open forum, through a comment card that could be completed at the venue or mailed, and some questions were asked during the presentation. The public meeting was advertised widely, and ODFW staff received requests for information by phone and email. Most people who were unable to attend were able to get the information they requested on the [SEACOR website](#).

The following are questions and comments that are representative of those received during the meeting and through emails, calls, and the comment cards:

Management & Regulations

It isn't fair that there isn't a quota for intertidal cockle harvest. Is there a plan to instate a quota for intertidal commercial harvest?

Based on the data presented, the dive fishery quota for cockles can be raised.

My industry would be more stable if the cockle fishery would be open until July 1.

How does commercial licensing work? Are they limited entry?

How do intertidal and commercial harvesters collect clams? Do they do it by hand? Can they use mechanical devices or dredge?

Is it correct that there isn't a commercial littleneck fishery?

Would an increase in the size commercial cockle harvesters take help sport users (in Bay Ocean)?

**Tillamook Public Meeting. May 11, 2015**

Oregon Department of Forestry building, Tillamook, OR.

Number of Participants: 20-22 (7 comment cards received (some repeats))

On Monday, May 11, 2015, the Shellfish Program delivered a public presentation that provided background information about commercial & sport harvests, the purpose of rule adjustments, and a package of 5 proposed rule changes. The proposed changes included:

- A 2 ¾" minimum size for all intertidal and subtidal commercial cockles in Tillamook and Netarts bays, and elimination of the 4" size limit on dive gapers in Tillamook Bay
- Dive quotas on subtidal clams in Tillamook Bay (185,000 pounds for cockles, 115,000 pounds for gapers)
- A moratorium on the commercial harvest of native littleneck clams statewide
- An extension of the commercial restriction line in Tillamook Bay to Hobsonville Point, and
- The cessation of commercial cockle harvest in Netarts Bay

The audience was comprised of mostly commercial clam harvesters. There were just a few recreational representatives, two OSP troopers, an ODA representative, and ODFW Shellfish Program staff.

There was a general acceptance of the dive quotas though some supported a higher gaper quota. Several participants suggested spreading the quotas out through the year to allow opportunities and reduce the derby fishery. Another topic was human consumption markets and how size limits and the lack of littleneck harvest would slow the development of those markets. Some participants want the gaper clam season extended or combined with monthly quotas. The concept of harvest limitation through limiting the number of intertidal harvest permits rather than quotas was discussed. The two most common comments involved restrictions of commercial harvest of cockles in Netarts Bay rather than a complete ban, and the fact that a gaper quota of only 115,000 pounds was overly restrictive.

As is common in public forums, several other ideas were shared. Many of them were voiced only by one person and did not relate directly to the proposals suggested by ODFW. ODFW staff stressed that the goals of these proposals are to use currently available data to adaptively manage these resources and allow ample harvest while protecting spawning stock. If information comes to light in the future that deems modifications to these new rules, it will be applied in another effort to manage these resources in a way that best fits ODFW's mission.