



**Oregon State
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Dear House Members of the Committee on Natural Resources,

I wish to offer strong support for House Bill 2574 that is designed to help farming and recreational harvests of shellfish in Oregon's waters.

The request that the Department of Land Conservation and Development develops an electronic database for shellfish farmers will assist in the planning and development of shellfish farming in Oregon's waters. The collection of land use plans and zoning for estuaries that have the potential for aquaculture operations will be especially useful in planning for prospective shellfish farmers.

The designation of the State Department of Agriculture to administer and enforce regulations of shellfish farming on tidelines owned by counties or port districts will ensure that shellfish farming is treated similarly in the state, regardless of the location of farms on public lands. The request that the State Department of Agriculture establishes a seawater-monitoring program will be especially useful for shellfish farmers as water quality can have a major impact on farm siting and operations. Frequent closures of shellfish farms due to poor water quality conditions can cause considerable economic hardship.

Lastly, education of the public about the importance of shellfish in the ecology and bays and estuaries will be a valuable addition to the outreach program of ODFW.

Thank you for your support of sustainable farming and recreational harvesting of shellfish in Oregon.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Langdon,
Prof. Fisheries,
Oregon State University