Helping Oyster Growers Control Burrowing Shrimp

Collaborative research to stem the expanding burrowing shrimp populations that kill growing oysters.

INVESTMENT
$1,065,000

RESEARCH TO CONTROL BURROWING SHRIMP

WILLAPA BAY & GRAYS HARBOR, WA

PARTNERS
• Willapa Bay-Grays Harbor Oyster Growers Association
• Washington State Department of Agriculture
• Pacific County Economic Development Council
• Washington State University
• Washington Sea Grant

1,840* jobs at risk statewide

25% OF ALL UNITED STATES OYSTERS ARE PRODUCED IN THIS REGION

BEGINNING 2018

* ESTIMATED BY NORTHERN ECONOMICS IN 2010

HILARY S. FRANZ, is Washington’s fourteenth Commissioner of Public Lands since statehood in 1889.
Willapa Bay produces 25 percent of our country’s oysters, but the future of some family-owned oyster farms is uncertain due to expanding burrowing shrimp populations. An investment of $1 million will fund research to pilot new shrimp control techniques. This funding will also help DNR identify unused tidelands that could be made available to impacted oyster farmers. The goal is to enable business operations to continue while solutions are explored.

Funding comes from DNR ($65,000), the state legislature ($950,000), and the Department of Agriculture ($50,000). DNR Aquatics staff, Department of Agriculture, the University of Washington’s Sea Grant research program and local oyster growers will share facilitation responsibilities.

Pacific County has the third highest unemployment rate in the state of Washington.

// UNTIL NOW, STATE LEADERS HAVE UNDER-ESTIMATED THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THIS PROBLEM. NOW, WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD AND MOVING QUICKLY. THIS COLLABORATIVE APPROACH IS A GOOD START. AND I COMMEND COMMISSIONER FRANZ AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR WORKING WITH OUR COMMUNITY TO FIND A SOLUTION.”

BRIAN BLAKE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

THE INCREASES IN BURROWING SHRIMP POPULATIONS CONTINUE TO THREATEN THE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMIES IN SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON AS THE SHELLFISH INDUSTRY IS THE LARGEST PRIVATE EMPLOYER IN PACIFIC COUNTY. THIS NEW PARTNERSHIP HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BENEFIT THE MANY RESIDENTS WHOSE LIVELIHOODS DEPEND ON THESE JOBS.”

KEN WIEGARDT
WHOGA PRESIDENT