



CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 21, 2015

MEDIA CONTACTS

Kellie Stickney
Community Engagement Specialist
206-780-3741

City Council Adopts a Six-Month Moratorium on New Commercial Aquaculture Activities

Bainbridge Island, Wash., (January, 2015) At the Council Business meeting on January 20, 2015, an emergency Ordinance was adopted authorizing a six month moratorium on new, not existing, commercial aquaculture activities and only those aquaculture activities requiring a Shoreline Substantial Development Permit or Shoreline Conditional Use Permit. A public hearing will be held within sixty days. The moratorium was adopted to allow for an opportunity for parties currently involved in litigation regarding the Shoreline Master Program Update (SMP) an opportunity to come to a settlement agreement.

The City of Bainbridge Island's Shoreline Master Program Update contains aquaculture regulations that have been challenged by the Bainbridge Alliance and Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association (PCSGA). The Alliance and PCSGA filed petitions with the Central Puget Sound Growth Management Hearings Board, which has jurisdiction over the appeals. Both the Alliance and PCSGA assert that the City's SMP is inconsistent with the Shoreline Management Act. The Alliance's position is that the commercial aquaculture regulations are inconsistent with the City's desire, as expressed in the draft SMP submitted to ecology on January 13, 2013, to strictly regulate commercial aquaculture. The PCSGA's position is that commercial aquaculture regulations are a preferred use and should not be further restricted. On January 9, 2015, the City, DOE and the Alliance joined in a motion before the Board to extend the hearing date on the merits to allow time for the parties to agree – and propose to the Council for adoption – a limited amendment. . PCSGA did not agree to the motion to extend the hearing schedule. The extension was approved by the Board on January 13, 2015, and the hearing is currently scheduled for May 26, 2015.

Questions regarding this emergency Ordinance can be submitted to Lisa Marshall, City Attorney at 206.842.2545 or lmarshall@bainbridgewa.gov.

###