

Washington denies oyster growers' use of pesticide

Environmental concerns in Willapa Bay

By PHUONG LE
Associated Press

SEATTLE — State regulators on Monday tentatively denied a request by Willapa Bay oyster growers to use a pesticide to control shrimp that burrow in oyster and clam beds and make it hard for the shellfish to grow.

In denying a permit, the Department of Ecology said that new scientific research and data show the pesticide imidacloprid would have too great an impact on other marine organisms, wildlife and the environment.

It's a reversal from 2015 when the agency issued a similar permit to the Willapa-Grays Harbor Oyster Growers Association after finding the pesticide was unlikely to result in significant harm to the environment.

Ecology officials say they

evaluated new research and analyses that were not available during the previous review.

"The science around imidacloprid is rapidly evolving and we can't ignore it," Ecology Director Maia Bellon said in a prepared statement. "New findings make it clear that this pesticide is simply too risky and harmful to be used in Washington's waters and estuaries."

Oyster growers have tried for decades to control native shrimp — ghost and mud shrimp — that churn up mudflats, making the ground too soft for oysters, causing them to sink into the mud and suffocate.

Growers say the burrowing shrimp, left unchecked, threatens the shellfish industry in Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor, which contributes more than \$102 million to the region.

Willapa Bay is the largest producer of farmed oysters in the U.S., growing mostly non-native Pacific oysters.

"We believe the decision is based on politics and not on sound science," Ken Wiegardt,



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

Washington state ecology officials have denied a permit sought by shellfish growers that would have allowed them to use a pesticide on oyster and clam beds.

president of the Willapa-Grays Harbor Oyster Growers Association, said in a statement Monday.

"If this political, nonscientific decision stands, burrowing shrimp will continue to destroy our oyster beds, severely damaging our industry, our estuary and our entire rural economy," he added.

Weeks after receiving approval to use imidacloprid

waters, triggering additional environmental review.

The Department of Ecology denied the request, saying it found significant impacts to sediment and invertebrates that live in that sediment, as well as negative impacts to fish and birds when food sources are disrupted. It also said there was increased uncertainty about long-term, cumulative impacts.

Imidacloprid is a neonicotinoid, a class of commonly used insecticides. Studies have shown that neonicotinoids harm bees.

Several environmental and other groups applauded the decision, saying neonicotinoids should not be used in the water.

The group sought to apply the pesticide to about 500 acres of commercial shellfish beds, mostly in Willapa Bay, using boats and ground equipment.

The proposed area is much smaller than the 2015 plan to spray about 2,000 acres using helicopters.

The Department of Ecology

will make a final decision following a public comment period that ends May 14. The decision can be appealed.

In comments to the state last fall, the National Marine Fisheries Service said they had concerns about the unintended harm to other species.

Officials with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also told the state last fall it did not support a proposal to use the pesticide, saying that the use would have "acute adverse impacts" to sediments, marine organisms that live in that sediment, free-swimming crustaceans and zooplankton, both on and off areas that would be treated.

The growers group said Monday that it had proposed that the permit allow them to use the pesticide only to conduct scientific monitoring and that approval for use would depend on results of that monitoring.

The Department of Ecology told the group in a letter Monday that the issues would be the same whether it is experimental or for commercial purposes.

DEATHS

April 8, 2018

LERMA, Sandra L., 75, of Seaside, died at home. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary in Seaside is in charge of the arrangements.

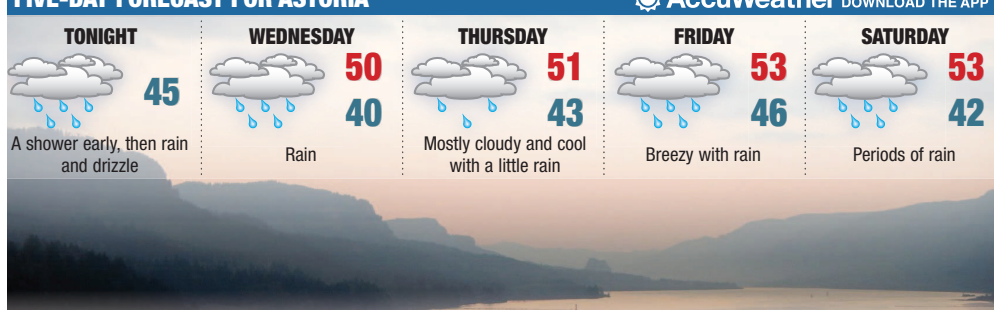
April 6, 2018

WITTE, Crystal M., 89, of Seaside, died

in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary in Seaside is in charge of the arrangements.

LOVEJOY, Steven, 59, of Astoria, died at home. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary & Crematory in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

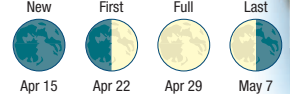


ALMANAC

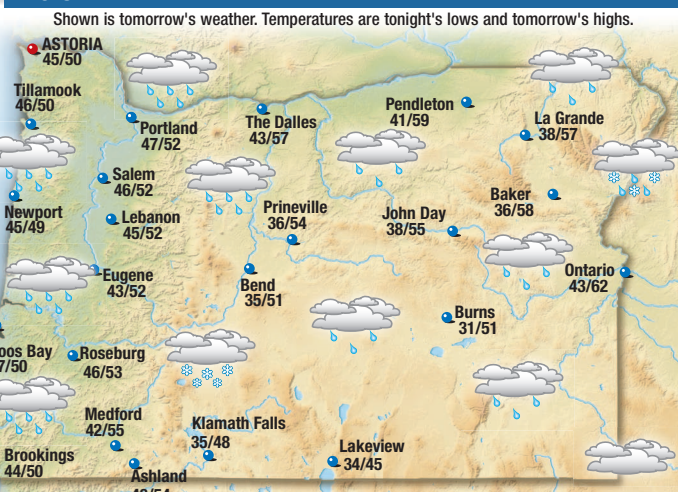
Astoria through Monday.
Temperatures
High/low 66°/40°
Normal high/low 56°/40°
Record high 77° in 1959
Record low 32° in 1982
Precipitation
Monday 0.00"
Month to date 2.78"
Normal month to date 1.80"
Year to date 26.01"
Normal year to date 26.64"

SUN AND MOON

Sunset tonight 7:56 p.m.
Sunrise Wednesday 6:37 a.m.
Moonrise today 4:21 a.m.
Moonset today 2:19 p.m.



REGIONAL WEATHER



UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Jupiter rises from the east at 10:20 p.m. On May 1, rises at 8:45 p.m.

TOMORROW'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks
Time High Low
10:44 a.m. 7.2 ft. 4:58 a.m. 2.9 ft.
11:57 p.m. 7.5 ft. 5:28 p.m. 0.9 ft.

NATIONAL CITIES

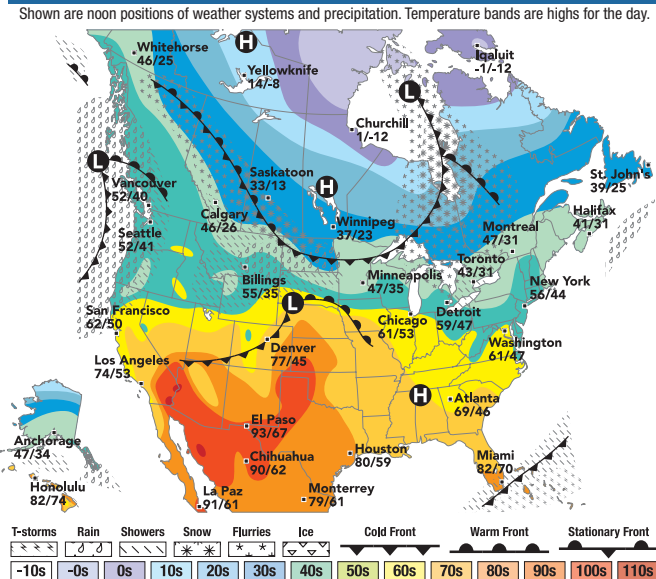
City	Today	Wed.
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Atlanta	68 43 pc	69 46 s
Boston	43 33 c	47 37 s
Chicago	47 37 pc	61 53 pc
Denver	70 46 pc	77 45 s
Des Moines	54 41 pc	70 47 pc
Detroit	48 33 pc	59 47 c
El Paso	84 59 s	93 67 s
Fairbanks	47 28 pc	48 25 pc
Honolulu	81 74 pc	82 74 pc
Indianapolis	49 34 pc	61 52 pc
Kansas City	57 45 pc	73 53 s
Las Vegas	92 69 pc	90 59 s
Los Angeles	85 58 pc	74 53 s
Memphis	59 39 s	70 53 s
Miami	88 71 pc	82 70 sh
Nashville	58 35 pc	68 50 s
New Orleans	73 54 s	75 54 s
New York	52 37 r	56 44 s
Oklahoma City	67 47 s	78 59 s
Philadelphia	52 36 r	56 44 s
St. Louis	52 42 c	70 55 pc
Salt Lake City	75 54 c	68 51 pc
San Francisco	64 52 c	62 50 c
Seattle	58 45 r	52 41 r
Washington, DC	57 39 pc	61 47 s

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Wed.
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Baker City	60 36 sh	58 34 sn
Bend	58 35 c	51 28 r
Brookings	55 44 r	50 40 r
Eugene	59 43 r	52 37 r
Ilwaco	54 47 r	50 43 r
Klamath Falls	55 35 r	48 25 r
Medford	64 42 r	55 36 r
Newberg	59 45 r	50 39 r
Newport	54 45 r	49 41 r
North Bend	56 46 r	50 41 r
Olympia	57 45 r	51 39 r
Pendleton	60 41 sh	59 38 sh
Portland	62 47 r	52 42 r
Roseburg	64 46 r	53 39 r
Salem	61 46 r	52 40 r
Seaside	55 46 r	50 42 r
Spokane	56 38 sh	55 36 c
Springfield	60 44 r	52 38 r
Vancouver	59 46 r	51 41 r
Yakima	65 38 c	57 36 c

TOMORROW'S NATIONAL WEATHER



State may allow electric bikes on some coastal park trails

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

Electric bikes might be coming to local trails.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is proposing a rule change that would allow electric bikes, or e-bikes, on certain state park trails and roads and select areas of the ocean shore.

"Our rules were written before e-bicycles were introduced," said Katie Gauthier, the department's legislative and policy coordinator. "We're just updating the rules."

The Banks-Vernonia State Trail, a long meandering, multi-use trail between Banks in Washington County and Vernonia in Columbia County, is already popular for cycling and has been a place where people have expressed interest in being able to use e-bikes, Gauthier said.

In Clatsop County and neighboring Tillamook County, Fort Stevens State Park and Nehalem Bay State Park could be candidates for

e-bikes. Both parks have some snowy plover nesting restrictions. E-bikes would not be allowed in those areas.

The proposed rules would allow people to ride e-bikes on roads and trails 8 feet or wider unless a park posted that the activity wasn't allowed. Individual parks will have some flexibility about how they enforce the rule on trails that may narrow at different points.

The state defines e-bikes as a bicycle that still has two or three fully functioning pedals, a motor that doesn't exceed 1,000 watts and that doesn't exceed a maximum speed of 20 mph.

Lisa Sauve of Northwest E-Bike, an e-bike rental and sales company in Seaside, said most of the people who rent the company's bicycles are from the baby-boom generation, people in their 50s, 60s and early 70s, who might have a harder time walking long distances or riding a regular bicycle around town.

"Those of us who our knees hurt ... we can't put as much effort into riding a bike as we

used to be able to do," Sauve said.

For now, the e-bike rentals are intended for use around Seaside and most people don't leave Broadway Street and the boardwalk area parallel to the beach. If the state's proposed rule changes pass and allow e-bikes in nearby state parks, Sauve said her company would be interested in leading e-bike tours in places like Fort Stevens.

"If it's possible to be in state parks, that would just be phenomenal," she said.

The state will be collecting public comments on the proposal through May 18. Public hearings will be held in a variety of Oregon cities beginning April 23. A public hearing is scheduled in Warrenton on May 7 from 6 to 8 p.m.

After the public comment period closes later in May, the state will review all the comments and present final recommended rules to the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission, which will review the rule at a meeting in June.

BIRTH

April 1, 2018

ZWEBER, Tiffany, and LAVINE, Daniel, of Knappa, a girl, Alivia Bea Marie Lavine,

born at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria. Grandparents are Linda and Lenny Wilkins and Dan and Lois

Lavine of Longview, Washington, Todd Zwebner of Knappa, and June VanDolah of St. Helens.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

Cannon Beach City Council, 5:30 p.m., regular meeting and work session, City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Warrenton City Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

Clatsop Community College Board, 6:30 p.m., Columbia Hall Room 219, 1651 Lexington Ave., Astoria.

Lewis & Clark Fire Department Board, 7 p.m., main fire station, 34571 Highway 101 Business.

WEDNESDAY

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, 6 p.m., Judge Guy Boyington Building, 857 Commercial St.

Astoria School Board, 6:15 p.m., study session, 7:30 p.m.,

regular meeting, Capt. Robert Gray School third-floor boardroom, 785 Alameda Ave.

Warrenton-Hammond School District Budget Committee, 6 p.m., Warrenton High School library, 1700 S. Main Ave.

Wickiup Water District Board, 6:30 p.m., 92648 Svensen Market Road, Svensen.

LOTTERIES

OREGON

Monday's Pick 4:

1 p.m.: 3-8-7-2

4 p.m.: 9-1-2-3

7 p.m.: 0-7-9-2

10 p.m.: 4-6-8-8

Monday's Lucky Lines: 02-06-12-15-19-22-28-31

Estimated jackpot: \$21,000

Monday's Megabucks: 6-8-27-34-40-48

Estimated jackpot: \$3.6 million

WASHINGTON

Monday's Daily Game: 1-1-3

Monday's Hit 5: 14-17-18-24-34

Estimated jackpot: \$150,000

Monday's Keno: 12-22-25-29-33-35-37-45-46-49-50-51-55-57-58-63-64-71-73-78

Estimated jackpot: \$3.6 million

Monday's Lotto: 05-23-30-38-43-48

Estimated jackpot: \$4 million

Monday's Match 4: 04-11-22-23

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Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

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