

# Washington oyster growers criticize Ecology's 'politics'

By DON JENKINS  
Capital Press

Washington state oyster growers denounced the state Department of Ecology for denying them permission Monday to spray a pesticide at Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor to kill burrowing shrimp.

The denial prevents 12 growers from applying the only effective means of removing a pest that plows up shellfish beds and causes oysters to sink and suffocate.

The growers charged Ecology with being driven by public hostility to spraying, rather than science. Ecology maintained it was guided by the potential harm to other creatures.

"We based our decision off the scientific data we have," Ecology spokeswoman Jessica Payne said. "This pesticide was too risky to be used."

Ecology's stance reverses a



Don Jenkins/Capital Press

Washington state oyster farmers inspect shellfish beds in Willapa Bay in 2015.

decision it made in 2015 to let growers spray imidacloprid, a neonicotinoid pesticide widely used on land crops. Ecology initially defended the spraying as ecologically sound. However, consumer, activist and

media disapproval pressured growers and Ecology into backing off.

Growers scaled back plans, proposing to spray 500 acres instead of 2,000 acres, and reapplied for a permit in 2016.

Ecology reported receiving more than 8,000 comments on the application. On Monday, it announced that it was denying the permit and cited new research for its change of view.

Washington State University scientist Kim Patten, who has researched eradicating burrowing shrimp in Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor for many years, disputed Ecology's assertion. Patten, based in Long Beach, said little new has emerged since 2015.

"I'm disappointed that politics got in the way of science," Patten said. "It's politics because spraying chemicals in Willapa Bay is not a popular sentiment. It doesn't sound good."

Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor shellfish farmers grow about 25 percent of the oysters harvested in the U.S. Left unchecked, the shrimp will reduce the harvest by 10 percent a year, Patten estimated.

For decades growers controlled the inedible burrowing shrimp with carbaryl. Imidacloprid was proposed by Patten and growers as a less toxic alternative.

The pesticide has not been used in the U.S. in the manner proposed by the oyster growers. Ecology water quality manager Rich Doenges said tests in Willapa Bay showed that imidacloprid reduced the population of some sediment-dwelling creatures by more than half, potentially disrupting the food chain.

He said that Ecology also was influenced by a 2017 EPA study that assessed how imidacloprid running off farm fields affected aquatic life.

The assessment found imidacloprid posed a low direct risk to fish, but could pose an indirect risk by harming insects that fish eat.

State Rep. Brian Blake, an Aberdeen Democrat whose

district includes Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor, said he was disappointed by Ecology's decision.

"I'm worried many of the growers may not survive," said Blake, chairman of the House agriculture committee. "It's not new science that killed the permit, it's new politics."

The oyster growers' association issued a press release through the public relations firm Strategies 360 condemning the decision. "To us, it seems like Ecology has been laying in the weeds, delaying action on our permit application, and politicizing the future of our farms," association President Ken Wiegardt said in a written statement.

Ecology's decision becomes final May 14. Until then, the public can comment on it. After that, growers can appeal the decision to the state's Pollution Control Hearings Board.

## Hip to victims' rights



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Members of Clatsop County District Attorney Josh Marquis' office pose for a photo in recognition of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The shirts read, 'Be hip. Heard. Informed. Present.'

## Tall ship Hawaiian Chieftain's visit canceled due to weather

The Daily Astorian

The Hawaiian Chieftain, a tall ship originally scheduled to visit Astoria from Friday through Tuesday, will not be docking here after all.

Citing possibly dangerous sailing conditions, Zachary Stocks, program development officer of Grays Harbor Historical Seaport, announced that the Chieftain will have to skip its visit to Astoria.

"The weather in Northern

California has caused severe swells that prevent us from meeting our (scheduled) programs on time," Stock said in a release.

Currently in Crescent City, the Chieftain will wait out the rough seas and head straight to its next planned stop in Newport.

A steel-hulled replica of vessels from the 18th and 19th centuries, the Hawaiian Chieftain is an educational tool meant to give people a sense of old-time

maritime life. The ship's crew comes dressed in period attire.

"We're sorry that we could not be here for our scheduled sails and education programs," Stocks wrote, adding that Grays Harbor Historical Seaport, a Washington-based nonprofit, may reschedule the Chieftain's visit for fall.

A story on page 2 of Thursday's Coast Weekend previewing the ship's arrival was finalized before news of the cancellation came.

## Ocean salmon fishing dates announced

The Daily Astorian

Sport salmon fishermen could be able to fish in the ocean off the Columbia River from June 23 through Labor Day.

The Pacific Fishery Man-

agement Council made the recommendation Tuesday at a meeting in Portland.

Meanwhile, commercial troll fishing for Chinook would be open intermittently along the Oregon Coast from May through the summer.

The council's recommendations will be forwarded to NOAA Fisheries for approval.

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission will be asked to adopt matching rules for state waters at a meeting in Astoria in April.

## Astoria, Warrenton to add new police officers

The Daily Astorian

Astoria and Warrenton will soon have four new officers on patrol.

The state Department of Public Safety Standards and Training will graduate its 376th Basic Police Class — including 38 new officers throughout Oregon — Friday morning in Salem. The 16-week class teaches skills such as firearm use, emergency vehicle operations,

ethics, cultural diversity, problem solving, community policing, elder abuse and drug recognition.

Officers Levi Winfrey and Andrew Murray will soon join Astoria police. In Warrenton, Officers Christopher Beem and Sheridan Crutcher will join the department.

Astoria Police Chief Geoff Spalding will be the keynote speaker. The ceremony begins at 11 a.m.

**FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA** AccuWeather DOWNLOAD THE APP

TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
40	51 44	53 47	53 42	51 39
Considerable cloudiness with showers	Rather cloudy and cool with a little rain	Breezy with periods of rain	Breezy with periods of rain	Rain

**ALMANAC**

Astoria through Tuesday.

**Temperatures**

High/low ..... 61°/47°  
 Normal high/low ..... 56°/40°  
 Record high ..... 77° in 2004  
 Record low ..... 31° in 1982

**Precipitation**

Tuesday ..... 0.32"  
 Month to date ..... 3.10"  
 Normal month to date ..... 1.98"  
 Year to date ..... 26.33"  
 Normal year to date ..... 26.82"

**SUN AND MOON**

Sunset tonight ..... 7:57 p.m.  
 Sunrise Thursday ..... 6:35 a.m.  
 Moonrise today ..... 4:54 a.m.  
 Moonset today ..... 3:21 p.m.

New First Full Last  
 Apr 15 Apr 22 Apr 29 May 7

**UNDER THE SKY**

Tonight's Sky: Both Saturn and Mars rise around 2 a.m. On May 1st, rises around 12:30 a.m.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

**TOMORROW'S TIDES**

Astoria / Port Docks

Time	High	Time	Low
11:40 a.m.	7.5 ft.	5:50 a.m.	2.2 ft.
none		6:11 p.m.	0.7 ft.

**NATIONAL CITIES**

City	Today	Thu.	W	Hi	Lo	W
Atlanta	69	48	s	76	53	s
Boston	46	36	pc	55	48	r
Chicago	61	52	pc	65	47	pc
Denver	76	45	pc	75	34	pc
Des Moines	69	46	pc	68	59	pc
Detroit	58	45	c	70	45	c
El Paso	94	68	s	88	58	s
Fairbanks	47	25	pc	50	29	pc
Honolulu	81	74	sh	82	73	pc
Indianapolis	62	51	pc	74	59	pc
Kansas City	79	52	s	76	64	s
Las Vegas	90	60	s	70	49	s
Los Angeles	75	55	s	70	52	pc
Memphis	71	54	s	77	60	s
Miami	83	68	pc	81	69	pc
Nashville	69	51	s	78	58	s
New Orleans	75	56	s	78	64	s
New York	52	44	s	62	55	pc
Oklahoma City	80	58	s	84	63	pc
Philadelphia	54	42	s	69	56	pc
St. Louis	74	55	s	77	62	pc
Salt Lake City	69	49	pc	50	36	sh
San Francisco	61	50	c	60	48	r
Seattle	53	41	r	51	43	r
Washington, DC	60	47	s	75	59	pc

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

**REGIONAL WEATHER**

Shown is tomorrow's weather. Temperatures are tonight's lows and tomorrow's highs.

City	Today	Thu.	W	City	Today	Thu.	W
Astoria	40/51			Portland	42/52		
Tillamook	40/50			The Dalles	40/57		
Newport	41/50			Prineville	30/49		
Eugene	37/49			John Day	32/44		
Coos Bay	42/51			Bend	30/46		
Roseburg	39/52			Burns	27/45		
Medford	36/51			Klamath Falls	24/42		
Brookings	40/51			Ashland	35/49		
La Grande	34/46						
Baker	35/49						
Ontario	42/55						
Lakeview	25/40						
Yakima	58	38	c	59	35	pc	

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2018

**REGIONAL CITIES**

City	Today	Thu.	W	City	Today	Thu.	W
Baker City	58	35	sh	49	28	pc	
Bend	53	30	r	46	30	c	
Brookings	52	40	r	50	43	sh	
Eugene	50	37	r	49	40	r	
Ilwaco	49	43	r	50	46	r	
Klamath Falls	50	24	r	42	25	sn	
Medford	57	36	r	51	37	r	
Newberg	50	39	r	50	42	r	
Newport	49	41	r	50	44	r	
North Bend	51	42	r	51	44	r	
Olympia	49	37	r	51	41	r	
Pendleton	62	38	c	52	36	pc	
Portland	52	42	r	52	44	r	
Roseburg	55	39	r	52	41	r	
Salem	51	40	r	52	43	r	
Seaside	50	42	r	50	45	r	
Spokane	55	38	c	51	32	r	
Springfield	51	38	r	49	41	r	
Vancouver	50	41	r	51	43	r	
Yakima	58	38	c	59	35	pc	

**TOMORROW'S NATIONAL WEATHER**

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

T-storms Rain Showers Snow Flurries Ice Cold Front Warm Front Stationary Front

-10s -0s 0s 10s 20s 30s 40s 50s 60s 70s 80s 90s 100s 110s

## DEATH

April 10, 2018

DONALDSON, Russell Eugene, 67, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

## MEMORIALS

**Saturday, April 14**  
 HEROLD, Mabel Mathilda Kandoll — Celebration of life at 1 p.m., International Longshore and Warehouse Union Hall, 491 Industry St.

**MARCHAND, Albert Pierre Jr.** — Celebration of life from 2 to 4 p.m., Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum, 115 Lake St. S.E., in Ilwaco, Washington. Refreshments will be served.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

**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.

**THURSDAY**  
**Seaside Convention Center Commission**, 5 p.m., 415 First Avenue.  
**Cannon Beach Academy**, 5:30 p.m. 3718 S. Hemlock St., Cannon Beach.  
**Gearhart Planning Commission**, 6 p.m., 698 Pacific Way, Gearhart.

## LOTTERIES

**OREGON**  
**Tuesday's Pick 4:**  
 1 p.m.: 3-7-1-9  
 4 p.m.: 3-3-4-2  
 7 p.m.: 9-5-0-4  
 10 p.m.: 6-5-0-6

**Tuesday's Lucky Lines:** 03-08-11-15-20-22-28-29  
 Estimated jackpot: \$10,000  
**Tuesday's Mega Millions:** 5-13-31-43-53, Mega Ball: 20  
 Estimated jackpot: \$55 million

**WASHINGTON**  
**Tuesday's Daily Game:** 5-1-2  
**Tuesday's Keno:** 01-04-09-11-13-15-16-17-19-20-25-33-39-41-48-49-59-62-69-73  
**Tuesday's Match 4:** 09-12-16-24

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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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