

110

What the *Friends of Oakland Bay* are protesting is a massive aquaculture project that would be contained within a 50 acre parcel in the middle of Oakland Bay. Inside the boundary of the 50 acres, Taylor Shellfish company wants to construct an apparatus consisting of 28 double rows of 4 foot square , high density polyethylene black mesh bags. The bags would be set in double rows spaced 30 ft apart. Rows would each stretch 1,800 feet.

How big is this project? The perimeter of Taylor's oyster farm would be nearly a mile long, and would encompass 1,862,000 sq. feet. This is a big ugly structure floating in a beautiful natural bay.

Taylor did their own visual assessment study (*Aquaculture Siting Study Exhibit 24*), and they concluded that "*the proposed aquaculture will be visually evident but not visually obtrusive.*"

Not true. Something of this size, made out of aluminum and high density polyethylene mesh does visually intrude. In fact it would destroy the stunning vistas that have graced Oakland Bay for centuries. Oakland Bay is often incandescently beautiful. Floating oyster bags are not. There is no way to mitigate what would be lost if Taylor builds their industrial sized aquaculture machine.

Who benefit if Taylor's assault on Oakland Bay is allowed to go forward? Only the stakeholders in Taylor Shellfish will profit. The losers will be tens of thousands of people who have come to love Oakland Bay—residents of Shelton, local tourists, and all the people who enjoy the vista as they drive along side the bay on highway 3.

Do the right thing. Save Oakland Bay for all the right reasons.