

Johnson Point
Nisqually Reach
March 2009

3 years ago my neighbors all decided to go into geoduck farming with Allen Shellfish. We being the youngest were last to be asked.

My husband and I have Kayaked all over Puget Sound and BC. We had seen many aquaculture sights and did not want to ruin our beach with a bunch of tubes or netting. We declined. We did not make any effort to stop our neighbors because at the time we thought it was an issue of looks rather than overall health.

The first batch of geoducks was about 20% of what was normal, but we didn't know that and were really pleased how unobtrusive they seemed to be. We were not told that disease had killed off the seed so he could only plant 20%. So we got to watch 3 rounds of tubes go in over a year and the tubes stayed for 3 years.

I spent the next 3 years picking up tubes, nets and rubber bands. Then we started seeing sand bags on our beach and on the other properties so I emptied them. We were then graced with white plastic bags that were diverting fresh water.

At the same time I was noticing the complete loss of life on our beach, no starfish, crabs, flounder, snails. We no longer had sea life!

The white plastic bags finally did me in and I started trying to find out what was legal. That was a whole new adventure of passing the buck. I finally was told by a nice lady at the Department of Health to call Laura.

I would begin to speak with one of my neighbors who witnessed them spraying our properties. These neighbors are pulling out.

December of this year we have tubes out and I have seen some starfish. No crabs or moon snails or anything that used to reside here.

Susan