

Drakes Bay Oyster Company

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VIA EMAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Timothy J. Ragen, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Marine Mammal Commission
4340 East-West Highway, Room 700
Bethesda, MD 20814-4447

Dear Dr. Ragen.

We recommend that the MMC consider inviting Bill Dewey to serve on the panel reviewing harbor seals in Drakes Estero. Your vision for this MMC effort is to achieve a level of consensus – bringing people together. We share that vision and are heartened by it.

The NAS said something similar. But, when individuals with shellfish farming knowledge or experience were recommended, NAS rejected each – and then told us that they would be, by definition, biased. The Marine Mammal world is, in relative terms, small. Most know one another. And, most know Sarah Allen or her work. Does that make each, by definition, biased?

If the MMC wants to achieve “buy-in” not only from us, but from shellfish farmers throughout the region, we urge you to include Bill Dewey on the panel.

Dewey works for Taylor Shellfish in Washington State, is well-versed in the range of environmental issues and is, within our world, the primary person to whom all farmers turn to for help on such issues. He has served on national panels, including at the NAS. He is academic and professorial in his approach. He respects science, data and documentation.

We believe the MMC mission would be enhanced and the panel’s outcome perceived as more credible with Mr. Dewey’s participation .

He can be reached at:
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If you want to achieve a working understanding among the various parties, and you want the Commission's work to be received with integrity, then inviting Mr. Dewey to serve on your panel will enhance the quality of your effort.

Thank you for your consideration to this recommendation.

Sincerely,

Kevin Lunny

Nancy Lunny