

March 11, 2020

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City of Bainbridge Island  
280 Madison Ave. North  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

Subject: Wysong/Ziembra Dock Replacement; Manzanita Bay PLN 50280SSDP

As a 40-year resident of Bainbridge Island and a participant in shoreline projects and environmental reviews of projects on the Island I am writing to address my concern about the proposed dock in Little Manzanita.

My resume is attached but I would like to add that as a participant in the Bainbridge Island Master Shoreline Management Plan preparation and implementation, I am opposed to the proposed dock replacement.

My experience on and off the Island concerning the preservation and protection of critical shoreline habitat has allowed me to observe and comment on projects that clearly have a significant negative environmental impact. The importance of our shorelines on the island are well documented in the 2004 study completed by the Battelle Consulting firm. Of particular significance in that document is the data presented concerning forage fish spawning areas and salmon bearing streams. Figure B-8 of that study clearly identifies the area immediately adjacent to the site of the dock project. The study identifies the use of the project area of the shoreline by herring and surf smelt critical forage fish for Chinook salmon. The presence of forage fish at this site is also identified in forage fish documents available from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The aquatic site survey completed in 2016 for this project was conducted the 1<sup>st</sup> week in October, a period that would not have a significant presence of juvenile salmonids. In addition, there would be a reduction in the abundance of eel grass due to the reduced level of sunshine. The area that was surveyed was probably the smallest area allowed for a site evaluation for docks. The absence of eel grass in the very limited area of the sampling does not reflect on the importance of this shoreline for the presence of forage fish, aquatic insects and food sources utilized by juvenile salmonids.

As a citizen volunteer I participated in several forage fish shoreline beach seining projects in the immediate vicinity of the project and also presented in documentation of forage fish use in the Battelle document.

The presence of the proposed dock also causes an additional impact, other than the construction of the dock and loss of critical shoreline habitat, by significantly increasing the area and number of structures the will result in the increased abundance of predator species of fish impacting survival of forage fish and migrating juvenile salmon along the shoreline.

I have personally participated in the planning and implementation of fish passage structures on the north and east branches of the stream that enters into the bay immediately to the south of the proposed site. The Shoreline Management Team of the City monitors the return of salmon to Manzanita Creek every fall. This stream is one of the most utilized by returning coho salmon and sea-run cutthroat trout on the Island.

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