Letter against: Dock Variance PLN50280C SSDP SVAR on Little Manzanita Bay mouth by Allen Philips

3/10/2020

From: Allen Philips
Steward | **Puget Sound Native Tree Garden**
A small two-acre conservancy and estuary
6688 ½ NE Bayview Blvd
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

To: City of Bainbridge Island
Kol Medina, North Ward Council
Joe Deets, North Ward Council
COBI Hearing Examiners: Ted Hunter and Andrew Reeves, Lee Raaen
Perry Barrett, BIM Park District Land Use Administrator
Charlette Garrido, Kitsap County Commissioner
Christine Rolfes, Washington State Legislature Senator from Bainbridge

Subj: Wysong-Ziemba Substantial Shoreline Variance for a 240 foot dock, PLN50280C SSDP SVAR, on Little Manzanita Bay Inlet

My name is Allen Philips, my family I are completely against the approval for a variance to extend an existing dock into the entry of Little Manzanita Bay.

Hello people, as most of you know, I moved to Bainbridge Island over 45 years ago as a young man, a friend of forest and sea. I served on the Kitsap County Land Use committees before there was a City of Bainbridge Island, and on the COBI committees for the initial Comprehensive Plans during incorporation.

Decades ago, I entered into conservation agreements with the Bainbridge Park District to protect and preserve the estuary and interior forest - waterfront interface along over 250 feet of shoreline. I have watch properties developed and houses built all around me.

In these 45+ years, I have never complained about a neighbor being able to build upon their land, except:

In 2016, I also recommended against a 240-foot dock in the same location where this one is being proposed.

Below is a list of objectionable issues:

- Extending this dock and introducing 50-foot ships into the bay will have significant impact upon the wildlife contained in the bay.
- Nowhere in the application do I note the impact of prop-wash on the waters.
- This dock will become completely dry at low tide. This is not noted in the application.
- Fifty-foot boats typically have props greater than two feet in diameter, and require significant jockeying during tidal changes.

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- To expect that these screws will not tear up the bottom when thrust is applied during shallow draft is foolhardy.
- I was a commercial fisherman in my youth and know of the churning of the waters that occur underneath craft of this size. We would cause boils and roils of mud that would burst to the surface even when the bottom was ten-feet deeper than draft. This mud will drift over the kelp beds with devastating results.
- Ships with a fifty-foot waterline are typically 60 to 65 five feet in total length, and require crew. Where are the sewage disposal and pump out systems in the plans? Will swill just be dumped covertly? It was interesting that the neighborhood was not proactively approached by the applicants during the development process. Is this behind the scenes behavior typical?
- Bringing in ships to moor during the salmon and smelt and herring seasons will impact over fifty percent of their ability to transcend the bay at even the highest high tide. Since seawater is basically opaque beyond ten feet, wildlife will spook, but does not disperse, and can be torn to shreds by the boats.
- Even without boat slips, the length of the dock will impede the natural shore-hugging passage of our salmon, and, the lower the tide, the greater the impact.
- I have worked on ships my entire life, including one of the largest in Eagle Harbor, the *Surabosa.* The owners of this large vessel only use it a few weekends a year, which I have noticed is typical for those who make their income away from the water. The young people of this family love to goose the engine as they exit the waters with no regard to the wildlife. Are we going to mandate a 5-mph zone like they do in Florida for the Manatees? Is such a zone manageable, who would enforce it?
- Is a huge dock, whose main purpose might be to store boats in lifts most of the time, that might not be used in a maritime capacity, appropriate for Manzanita Bay?
- The dock will be within 50’ and impact the only rock outcropping in Little Manzanita Bay. Mud would kill off this unique site.

My name is Allen Philips, I have a Master’s degree in Oceanography and have been proactively protecting Little Manzanita Bay for over 45 years: my family I are completely against the approval for a variance to extend an existing dock into the entry of Little Manzanita Bay.

Sincerely

Allen Philips

On the next page is a shortened list of the wildlife that would be impacted by this dock:

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Plant and resident species in neighborhood of Little Manzanita Bay within 100 yards of the proposal:

Little Manzanita Creek was a skid road for Island logging in the late 1800s up to WW I (conversation with Alan Olson, born in the upper bay in 1919). The last industrial work ended by the Miller farm in 1952 (conversation with Adelia Miller about her late husband's work).

In the 1960s, Eggy Bucat, as part of his Eagle Scout work, restored the wild run Coho Salmon in the Little Manzanita watershed with fry acquired from the UW fisheries department.

The bay has been recovering since then. At first, blue herons and, in the early 1980s, first, the return of Osprey, otters, then Bald Eagles.

Coho Salmon, wild run, observations by Al Philips, upper Little Manzanita Bay

- 1996 3 weeks Oct, one broach at high tide every 10 minutes upper bay average
- 1997 3 weeks Sep-Oct one broach at high tide every 5 minutes upper bay average
- 1998 3 weeks Sep-Oct one broach at high tide every 15 minutes upper bay average
- 1999 4 weeks Sep-Oct one broach at high tide every 30 minutes upper bay average
- 2000 3 weeks Sep-Oct one broach at high tide every 5 minutes upper bay average
- 2001 Count at Waterfall Gardens, Manzanita Creek, 300 spawning pairs, 6 pairs of Chum, November 11 (vet day), count by Bill Counts fisheries biologist, UofW
- 2002 3 weeks October, one broach at high tide every 30 seconds upper bay average
- 2003 3 weeks Sep-Oct one broach at high tide every 5 minutes upper bay average
- 2004 3 weeks Oct, one broach at high tide every 10 minutes upper bay average
- 2005 3 weeks Oct, one broach at high tide every 5 minutes upper bay average
- 2006 3 weeks Oct, one broach at high tide every 30 minutes upper bay average
- 2007 2 weeks Oct, one broach at high tide every 15 minutes upper bay average
- 2008 3 weeks Sep-Oct one broach at high tide every 10 minutes upper bay average
- 2009 3 weeks Sep-Oct one broach at high tide every 5 minutes upper bay average
- 2010 5 weeks Sep-Oct-Nov one broach at high tide every 15 minutes upper bay average
- 2011 3 weeks Sep-Oct one broach at high tide every hour upper bay average
- 2012 4 weeks Sep-Oct one broach at high tide every 10 minutes upper bay average
- 2013 3 weeks Oct one broach at high tide every 30 minutes upper bay average
- 2014 3 weeks Sep-Oct one broach at high tide every 20 minutes upper bay average
- 2015 4 weeks Sep-Oct one broach at high tide every 15 minutes upper bay average
- 2016 3 weeks Oct one broach at high tide every 15 minutes upper bay average
- 2017 3 weeks Sep-Oct one broach at high tide every hour upper bay average
- 2018 3 weeks Sep-Oct one broach at high tide every 15 minutes upper bay average
- 2019 3 weeks Oct one broach at high tide every 30 minutes upper bay average

Chum Salmon, "lost" hatchery fish, over 400, observed by Fred Grimm, 1990-91

Pacific Herring Spanning October in mass, surface boils, 2015 through last year, head of Bay, recent observations

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Sea run cutthroat trout follow salmon run every year,

Simple list of Benthic biota in the intertidal zone of Little Manzanita Bay:

- Blenny
- Sculpin
- Starry Flounder
- Pipe Fish
- Herring
- Smelt
- Perch
- Dogfish
- Squid
- Mollusk
    - Cockle
    - Razor Clam
    - Geoduck (embedded in the lower layer of hardpan)
    - Horse clam
    - Moon snail
    - Limpet
    - Butter clam
    - Mussel
    - Pacific Oyster
- Sunstar
- Purple star
- Sand dollar
- Ghost shrimp
- Red rock crab
- Spider crab
- Barnacle
- Chiton

Birds:

- Flyway for seasonal waterfowl:
    - Russet
    - Bufflehead
    - Widgeons
    - Green heron
    - Canadian geese
    - Snow geese
    - Mallards
    - Merganser
    - Cormorant

- Flicker
- Snowy woodpecker
- Pileated woodpecker
- Rufus hummingbird
- Anna's hummingbird
- Raven
- Alaska crow
- Barred pigeon
- Sparrow
- Chickadee
- Nuthatch
- Wrens
- Tits
- Steller's blue jay
- Robin
- Western thrush
- Meadowlark
- Owls/ Hawks
- Many/many more

Marine Mammals

Manzanita Bay has historically seen visits by Grey Whales that forage within the intertidal zones, as well as resident populations of Harbor Seals. The transient orcs poached our last harbor seal about a decade ago.

NOTE:

Within fifty feet of the proposed dock is the only exposed rocks within Manzanita Bay, containing a large population of additional intertidal wildlife requiring the fixed substrate of rocks for their survival

Downslope from the proposed dock are large beds of eelgrass and kelp, which are highly sensitive to siltation and burial from disturbed soil from construction and prop-wash of fifty-foot boats.