

**From:** [Laura L Brakke](#)  
**To:** [Council](#)  
**Subject:** Please pass strong land-use code updates for Cherry Point UGA  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 20, 2018 5:39:36 PM

---

Laura L Brakke  
585 Pleasant Bay Rd  
Bellingham, WA 98229

June 20, 2018

Dear Whatcom County Council,

Dear Whatcom council members,

I do not want to be part of the generation that allows and accelerates the loss of Wild Salmon. Unfortunately I am witness to the steep decline, and it is naïve to pretend that the huge increase in ship traffic through the Puget Sound does not have a negative impact on fish migration and survival. The Orca are also at risk and we see this in the news as well.

The Cherry Point Aquatic reserve is designated as such due to its unique and rich biodiverse ecosystem. That means it is irreplaceable, and now you as a body have the opportunity to vote to protect, enhance and preserve this special place. Or conversely you will have before you legions of "JOBS" messaging. I hope you are versed in the number of fishing jobs our are of the Sound used to provide, and could once again if fishing as a sustainable industry was embraced over shipping raw materials to China, which just happens to be our Economic enemy at the moment.

Salmon are worth protecting, the healthiest food on the planet and a species to admire in awe and amazement at their homing skills. Why would we spent billions to repair culverts, recent Supreme court 4-4 decision, when soon there will be no Salmon to traverse those stream courses? I vote for less ships and more Salmon and I hope you will too.

I appreciate the work to date by the Council toward better protecting the health and safety of our community. I urge you to enact the strongest possible protections in land-use code, including prohibitions and strict conditions for permits in the Cherry Point UGA. New facilities to ship coal, oil or gas should be prohibited, and existing facilities should be held to the highest standards for safety and pollution control. Permits for upgrades must require SEPA EIS review of cumulative impacts with a greenhouse gas life-cycle analysis, total mitigation of climate pollution, and conditions to require no adverse impacts on herring, salmon, orca, or other endangered species. Furthermore, the County should not be processing permits for projects that have not yet been authorized as compliant with federal laws and treaties governing the Salish Sea.

Here in Whatcom County, and I have the train track running by my house, I see and hear the impact of increased oil transport when two oil-by-rail unloading facilities resulted in near-daily shipments of >100-unit explosive tank cars through my back yard, with only limited public and environmental review. Once again, we are seeing the potential for this risk.

Please put these necessary protections into law. Thank you for your hard work and diligence in service of our county.

Sincerely,  
Laura L Brakke