

others studying this problem in Louisiana found even this soluble fraction was detrimental to oysters, hampering feeding and having the effect of narcotics.

Our members along the York River in Virginia—a western tributary of Chesapeake Bay—have suffered losses ever since the installation of the Shell refining plant across the river from Gloucester. There were all kinds of promises and assurances that Shell would not be harmful to the vast marine resources of the York River. The oyster growers in the vicinity get poorer each year, and more and more are giving up. Spills and accidents occur all the time. Virginia fines the company, but the oystermen are told, “Sorry.” If only the victims had redress, the couplings, the hoses, the valves of the equipment loading the tankers would, we believe, suddenly operate much better. To add to their grief, up the river on the opposite side, there is a Navy supply depot. Despite our Government’s effort to abate pollution of its own vessels, the evidence is strong that Navy ships at the depot discharge oil or pump their bilges. Oily debris frequently fouls these areas and the only source is the depot itself.

RESOLUTION OF PACIFIC COAST OYSTER GROWERS ASSOCIATION

The members of the Pacific Coast Oyster Growers Association, which are affiliated with us, expressed their problems with oil and oysters in the following resolution and action at their annual meeting last August:

Whereas, extensive contamination of shorelines, bays, harbors, and estuaries of England and France resulted from oil from the wrecked tanker *Torrey Canyon*, and

Whereas, similar oil spills at sea have caused contamination of beaches along the coast of the United States, and

Whereas, certain methods used for control of oil spills may also cause harm to biological populations, and

Whereas oysters, clams, crabs, and other food species may be contaminated by oil or by chemicals used in control of oil spills so that they will be unfit for market, and

Whereas Puget Sound is being considered as the major West Coast unloading area for super tankers, and other bays important to oyster culture are used as ports for medium-sized tankers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Pacific Coast Oyster Growers Association:

1. Each member be alert to opportunities to participate in local decisions regarding establishment of oil depots in Puget Sound and in other areas important to oyster culture, and that,

2. The association and each member demand inclusion of adequate facilities and procedures for control of oil spills in any oil depot development, and,

3. The Association go on record as supporting national programs for development of procedures for controlling oil spills which will prevent damage to commercial fish and shellfish resources, and that,

4. The executive secretary be instructed to send copies of this resolution to the appropriate local, State, and Federal agencies.

A little oil is too much for our product because it cannot be marketed once these hydrocarbons become incorporated into the tissues. We cannot be a part of the GNP without your help.

AMENDMENT RECOMMENDED

We respectfully request that section 21 of H.R. 15906 be amended as:

(a) add to line 11 the phrase “and to the marine resources.”