



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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May 17, 2021

Deep Blue Seafood
Attn: James Smith
4136 Meridian N
Seattle, WA 98103

RE: Water Quality Certification Order No. **19951** for Corps Reference No. **200701152**,
Deep Blue Sea LLC, Jefferson County, Washington

Dear James Smith:

On April 1, 2021, Deep Blue Seafood submitted a request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) under the federal Clean Water Act for the Deep Blue Sea LLC located on tidelands within Hood Canal, near Port Ludlow, Jefferson County, Washington.

On behalf of the state of Washington, the Department of Ecology certifies that the work described in the Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Application (JARPA) and the public notice complies with applicable provisions of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Clean Water Act, as amended, and applicable state laws. This certification is subject to the conditions contained in the enclosed Order.

Please ensure that anyone doing work under this Order has read, is familiar with, and is able to follow all of the provisions within the attached Order.

If you have any questions about this decision, please contact Teresa Pucylowski by e-mail at teressa.pucylowski@ecy.wa.gov. The enclosed Order may be appealed by following the procedures described within the Order.

Sincerely,

Brenden McFarland, Section Manager
Environmental Review and Transportation Section
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

Enclosure

Deep Blue Sea LLC
Order No. 19951, Corps No. 200701152
May 17, 2021
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e-cc: Meghan Fullam, Corps of Engineers (Corps)
Laura Hendricks, Coalition to Protect Puget Sound Habitat
Amy van Saun, Center for Food Safety
Loree' Randall, Ecology
Teresa Pucylowski, Ecology
ecyrefedpermits@ecy.wa.gov – Aquatics No. 139208
Aquaculture-Reinforcement-Team@usace.army.mil

IN THE MATTER OF GRANTING A) ORDER No. 19951
WATER QUALITY) Corps Reference No. 200701152
CERTIFICATION TO) Deep Blue Sea LLC located on tidelands within
Deep Blue Seafood) Hood Canal, near Port Ludlow, Jefferson
pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1341 (FWPCA) County, Washington
§ 401), RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260)
and Chapter 173-201A WAC)

Deep Blue Seafood
Attn: James Smith
4136 Meridian N
Seattle, WA 98103

On April 1, 2021, Deep Blue Seafood submitted a request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) under the federal Clean Water Act for the Deep Blue Sea LLC, Jefferson County, Washington. The Department of Ecology (Ecology) issued a public notice for the project on April 1, 2021.

This project will continue to cultivate geoduck clams in a 6-acre farm area on private tidelands. The geoduck cultivation area consists of 4 acres, with 2 acres of active farming and 2 acres left fallow. These 4 acres are sited between the extreme low water mark and +3.0ft mean Lower Low Water (MLLW). This farm has been in operation for 20 years. There project area is characterized as a sugar sand beach with little to no vegetation, and no eelgrass present in the planting area. Access to the project are can occur from the upland, but mostly via boat.

Geoduck seed are planted in Vexar mesh tubes (12"-long by 4-6"-wide), that are then pushed into the substrate. These are extruded polyethylene tubes with holes that allow water to flow through the tube and results in a stable protection that does not get washed out with hydraulic action, decreasing the potential for lost tubes. Planting occurs 2-3 times per year as seed becomes available, and about 2-3 geoduck seed are placed in each tube. The tubes are spaced approximately 18" apart, and identifying information (name and phone number) is attached via zip tie to each tube. There are no nets or rubber bands used. Tubes are removed after seed becomes established in the substrate, or they are left in until harvest time. After 4-6 years after planting the geoduck are harvested using water pressurized wands. Harvest occurs when the tide is low enough to access the tidelands.

The project site is located on tidelands within Hood Canal, on parcel number 721194010, adjacent to 22 Groves Way, near Port Ludlow, Jefferson County, Washington; Section 19, Township 27 North, Range 1 East; WRIA 17, Quilcene-Snow Watershed.

With this Order, Ecology is granting Deep Blue Seafood's request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the Deep Blue Sea LLC project, provided that the activity is conducted in accordance with the Section 401 Water Quality Certification request and attachments Ecology received on April 1, 2021.

Based on the information submitted, Ecology has determined that the discharge from the project will comply with state water quality requirements. Prior to undertaking any changes that materially alter the project, Deep Blue Seafood must contact Ecology to determine whether a new Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required.

Issuance of this Section 401 Water Quality Certification for this proposal does not authorize Deep Blue Seafood to exceed applicable state water quality standards (Chapter 173-201A WAC), ground water quality standards (Chapter 173-200 WAC) or sediment quality standards (Chapter 173-204 WAC). Furthermore, nothing in this Section 401 Water Quality Certification absolves the Applicant from liability for contamination and any subsequent cleanup of surface waters, ground waters, or sediments resulting from project construction or operations.

Special Condition:

Any work that causes distressed or dying fish or discharges of oil, fuel, or other chemicals into state waters or onto land with a potential for entry into state waters is prohibited¹. If such work, conditions, or discharges occur, immediately notify² Ecology's Regional Spill Response Office at 360-407-6300 and the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife with the nature and details of the problem, any actions taken to correct the problem, and any proposed changes in operation to prevent further problems. You will also need to notify the Washington Emergency Management Division³ at 1-800-258-5990, for actual spills to water only. This condition is necessary to prevent oil and hazardous materials spills from causing environmental damage and to ensure compliance with water quality requirements. The sooner a spill is reported, the quicker it can be addressed, resulting in less harm.

In view of the foregoing and in accordance with 33 U.S.C. §1341, RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260 Chapter 173-200 WAC and Chapter 173-201A WAC, this WQC is granted to the Deep Blue Seafood, Deep Blue Sea LLC project.

This Certification is not effective until the U.S. Corps of Engineers (Corps) Seattle District issues an individual Department of the Army (DA) permit for this project. Order No. **19951** will remain valid for the duration of the associated DA permit. Deep Blue Seafood should send a copy of the final DA permit to fednotification@ecy.wa.gov within two weeks of receiving it.

YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL

You have a right to appeal this Order to the Pollution Control Hearing Board (PCHB) within 30 days of the date of receipt of this Order. The appeal process is governed by Chapter 43.21B RCW and Chapter 371-08 WAC. "Date of receipt" is defined in RCW 43.21B.001(2).

¹ RCW 90.48

² WAC 173-303-145

³ RCW 90.56.280

To appeal you must do both of the following within 30 days of the date of receipt of this Order:

- File your appeal and a copy of this Order with the PCHB (see addresses below). Filing means actual receipt by the PCHB during regular business hours.
- Serve a copy of your appeal and this Order on Ecology in paper form by mail or in person. (See addresses below.) E-mail is not accepted.

You must also comply with other applicable requirements in Chapter 43.21B RCW and Chapter 371-08 WAC.

ADDRESS AND LOCATION INFORMATION

Street Addresses	Mailing Addresses
Department of Ecology Attn: Appeals Processing Desk 300 Desmond Drive SE Lacey, WA 98503	Department of Ecology Attn: Appeals Processing Desk PO Box 47608 Olympia, WA 98504-7608
Pollution Control Hearings Board 1111 Israel Road SW, Suite 301 Tumwater, WA 98501	Pollution Control Hearings Board PO Box 40903 Olympia, WA 98504-0903

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please direct all questions about this Order to:

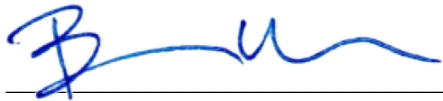
Teressa Pucylowski
Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
teressa.pucylowski@ecy.wa.gov

MORE INFORMATION

- **Pollution Control Hearings Board Website**
<http://www.eluho.wa.gov/Board/PCHB>
- **Chapter 43.21B RCW - Environmental and Land Use Hearings Office – Pollution Control Hearings Board**
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=43.21B>
- **Chapter 371-08 WAC – Practice And Procedure**
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=371-08>

- **Chapter 34.05 RCW – Administrative Procedure Act**
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=34.05>
- **Chapter 90.48 RCW – Water Pollution Control**
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=90.48>
- **Chapter 173.204 WAC – Sediment Management Standards**
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-204>
- **Chapter 173-200 WAC – Water Quality Standards for Ground Waters of the State of Washington**
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-200>
- **Chapter 173-201A WAC – Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Washington**
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-201A>

SIGNATURE



Brenden McFarland, Section Manager
Environmental Review and Transportation Section
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program
Department of Ecology

May 17, 2021
Date