



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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May 21, 2021

Goose Point Oyster Company  
Attn: Kathleen Nisbet Moncy  
7081 Niawiakum State Hwy 101  
Bay Center, WA 98527

RE: Coastal Zone Consistency for Corps Reference No. **200701488**,  
Goose Point Oyster North River, Pacific County, Washington

Dear Kathleen Nisbet Moncy:

On May 19, 2021, the Department of Ecology received a Certification of Consistency with the Washington State Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP) for the above project.

This determination is for the proposed project to continue to commercially cultivate up to 786.29 acres of on-bottom Pacific oysters and store 10 acres of Pacific seed oysters from -0.1 to +0.5 feet Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) tidal elevations. The proposed project is located 0.72 miles waterward from the approximate Mean High Water (MHW) shoreline and extends a maximum of 2.60 miles waterward of the approximate MHW shoreline. No permanent corner markers will be used. All access to the site will be by boat from Tokeland Marina or the Bay Center Processing Facility vessel staging area.

The planting, maintenance and cultivation of on-bottom Pacific Oysters will include the following: on-bottom oysters will be evenly scattered onto the substrate at high tide from the deck of an oyster scow. After the oysters are planted they will require very little maintenance, but will be regularly surveyed by the farm manager to ensure survival following extreme weather events. Grow out period of the oysters is 2-3 years. Harvest takes place during daylight tide hours over a period of 4-8 weeks. Oysters are harvested primarily by hand at low tide into tubs by crews of 7-10 people. Tubs are then retrieved by dredge at high tide the same day. The duration of low tide harvest is up to 4 hours. To complete harvest on high tide is an additional 2-3 hours.

Dredge harvest of oysters takes place on a periodic basis of about every 3-4 years. Annual dredge acres do not exceed 263 acres, and generally fall closer to 150 annual dredge acres of the total 786.29, as this property is primarily harvested by hand. Dredging occurs on high-mid tide and is done by skimming the surface of the substrate to minimize turbidity. Care is taken to ensure the full recovery of eelgrass in the dredging areas prior to mechanically harvesting the

area again. North River is comprised eelgrass cover ranging from dense patches to sparse to bare. Both *Z. marina* and *Z. japonica* are present.

Oyster seed is stored in nursery modules that are constructed of 3.25' diameter x 4' tall 2" ridged mesh baskets specialized for upland setting and overwintering seed in the North Willapa Bay estuary. Larvae are set onto cultch shell in the modules between the months of March-October. Following the 1-2 week upland setting period, the modules are rotated out of the upland setting system via crane, then transferred on to a crane scow at the Tokeland Marina 2.85 miles from the project site. The crane scow then distributes the covered modules upright onto the tide flats, spaced approximately 10-15' apart. Modules are distributed over the 10 acres of the SW section of the property which is a designated nursery area. The modules rest on the sediment for approximately one year before they are individually retrieved by a crane scow. The modules and seed are regularly surveyed to assess health and function. The nursery module design minimizes the use of single-use plastics in the estuary and eliminates the need for crews to break the seed out by hand, therefore reducing the amount of activity on the benthic substrate and habitat in the nursery area.

The project site is located on tidelands within Willapa Bay, on parcel numbers 79000000002, 79000000009, 790000000054, and 790000000096, near Bay Center, Pacific County, Washington; Section 1, Township 14 North, Range 10 West; WRIA 24, Willapa Watershed.

Pursuant to Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 as amended, Ecology concurs with Goose Point Oyster Company's determination that the proposed work is consistent with Washington's CZMP.

If you have any questions regarding Ecology's consistency decision, please contact Teresa Pucylowski at [teressa.pucylowski@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:teressa.pucylowski@ecy.wa.gov).

## **YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL**

You have a right to appeal this decision to the Pollution Control Hearing Board (PCHB) within 30 days of the date of receipt of this decision. 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).

To appeal you must do all of the following within 30 days of the date of receipt of this decision:

- File your appeal and a copy of this decision 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 decision 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
<b>Department of Ecology</b> Attn: Appeals Processing Desk 300 Desmond Drive SE Lacey, WA 98503	<b>Department of Ecology</b> Attn: Appeals Processing Desk PO Box 47608 Olympia, WA 98504-7608
<b>Pollution Control Hearings Board</b> 1111 Israel RD SW STE 301 Tumwater, WA 98501	<b>Pollution Control Hearings Board</b> PO Box 40903 Olympia, WA 98504-0903

Sincerely,



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

e-cc: Aquaculture-Reinforcement-Team@usace.army.mil  
Timothy Long, Corps of Engineers  
Laura Hendricks, Coalition To Protect Puget Sound Habitat  
Amy van Saun, Center for Food Safety  
Kathleen Sayce, Citizen  
Teresa Pucylowski, Ecology  
Loreé Randall, Ecology  
ecyrefedpermits@ecy.wa.gov – Aquatics No. 140244