



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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December 9, 2021

Station House Oyster Company
Attn: James J. Kemmer
450 Chinook Valley Rd.
Chinook, WA 98614

RE: Coastal Zone Consistency for Corps Reference No. **202001145**,
Station House Oyster Company Project 5, Pacific County, Washington

Dear James J. Kemmer:

On November 10, 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 of commercial culture of Pacific oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*) and Manila clams (*Venerupis philippinarum*) on existing farm areas in Willapa Bay. This location has been cultivated for over 10 years under permits NWS-2007-1424, NWS-2007-1492, NWS-2007-1507, NWS-2007-1509, NWS-2009-1260, NWS-2009-1266, and NWS-2007-1475. This area includes 10 individual parcels for a total of 588.6 acres, all of which is cultured. The shellfish growing areas range from -1.0 mean lower low water (MLLW) to +2.0 feet MLLW.

Pacific Oyster Culture – Seed Beds

Pacific oysters are grown directly on the beach substrate. Prior to planting, shellfish beds will be prepared by removing debris by hand. Seeding will occur by using oyster cultch – setting out and securing bags of washed, aged oyster shell to collect natural set on-site. These sites will also be seeded with hatchery oyster seed. Oysters are put on the seed bed as small seed and left to grow for 2 years. They are then mechanically moved to a fattening bed. OB-C011, OB-C012, and OBC105 is a 200+-acre bed, but only 25 acres are typically used for seed. Beds OB-C067, OB-C101 and OB-C022 are used on a rotational basis. Most seed beds are hand-picked with a few acres mechanically harvested every other year. When putting out oyster seed, native eelgrass areas are avoided to the extent practical because they are too soft. During hand harvest, workers use hand tools or hand-pick oysters and place them into various sized containers placed on the bed. Larger containers may be equipped with ropes and buoys that can be lifted with a boom crane

onto the deck of a barge at high tide. Smaller containers are placed or dumped on decks of scows for retrieval at high tide or are carried off the beach at low tide. Mechanical (dredge) harvest occurs by use of a harvest bag that is lowered from a barge or boat by boom crane or hydraulic winch at high tide and pulled along the bottom to scoop up or 'dredge' the oysters. The dredge bags have a leading edge (blade) consisting of a steel frame with teeth and a steel mesh collection bag attached to the frame. As the dredge bags are towed across the substrate, the oysters are loosened and guided into the bags. The bag is then hoisted onto the boat deck, emptied, and then redeployed. Two dredge bags may be towed simultaneously off each side of the boat. Dredge equipment can typically be adjusted so that the correct depth is dredged as tide levels change. Harrowing may occur between the 2 successive dredge events in order to increase recovery of oysters. Depth of substrate disturbance is approximately 1 to 2 inches. The effect of dredging is minimal due to the infrequency of the activity.

Manila Clam Culture Methods

The information below describes planting and harvest culture methods for Manila clams. No graveling occurs on these parcels. Hatchery-grown clams are seeded by hand directly onto the beach substrate. Natural spawning and setting of clams will also occur.

Harvest methods (hand harvest)

Hand harvesters dig clams during low tides using a clam rake every 2-3 years. Shovels or other hand operated tools may also be used. Market-size clams are selectively harvested, placed in buckets, bagged, tagged, and removed. Undersized clams are returned to beds for future harvests. Since a given clam bed may contain multiple year classes of clams, it may be harvested on a regular schedule to harvest individual year classes of clams. Hand-picking disturbs the top 1 to 2 inches of sediment, and these effects persist for approximately 1 tidal cycle (Suhrbier et al. 2017). Dredging effects are not relevant for this area.

The project site is located on tidelands within Willapa Bay, on Parcel #79003000011-A (OB-C011), Parcel #79003000011-B (OB-C012), Parcel #79003000105 (OB-C105), Parcel #79003000067 (OB-C067), Parcel #79003000101 (OB-C101), Parcel #79003000022 (OB-C022), Parcel #79003000109 (OB-C109), Parcel #79006000014 (Nemah Pacific #14), Parcel #79006000054 (Nemah Pacific #54), and Parcel #79003000069 (OB-C069), near Nemah, Pacific County, Washington; Section 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 19, Township 12 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 Station House Oyster Company's determination that the proposed work is consistent with Washington's CZMP.

If you have any questions regarding Ecology's consistency determination please contact Marco Pinchot at marco.pinchot@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

Filing an appeal with the PCHB:

Mailing Address:

Pollution Control Hearings Board
PO Box 40903
Olympia, WA 98504-0903

Street Address:

Pollution Control Hearings Board
1111 Israel RD SW
STE 301
Tumwater, WA 98501

Serving a copy of the appeal on Ecology:

Mailing Address:

Department of Ecology
Attn: Appeals Processing Desk
PO Box 47608
Olympia, WA 98504-7608

Street Address:

Department of Ecology
Attn: Appeals Processing Desk
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Sincerely,



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

e-cc: Aquaculture-Reinforcement-Team@usace.army.mil
Roscoe L. Sullivan, Corps of Engineers (Corps)
Laura Hendricks, Coalition to Protect Puget Sound Habitat
Amy van Saun, Center for Food Safety
Marlene Meaders, Confluence Environmental Company
Marco Pinchot, Ecology
Loreé Randall, Ecology
ecyrefedpermits@ecy.wa.gov