STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
PO Box 47600 • Olympia, WA 98504-7600 • 360-407-6000
711 for Washington Relay Service • Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341

January 12, 2022

Heckes Clams Inc.
Attn: John Heckes
PO Box 1657
Ocean Park, WA 98640

RE: Coastal Zone Consistency for Corps Reference No. **202100747**,
Heckes Bundle 3 - E-Group, Pacific County, Washington

Dear John Heckes:

On October 18, 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 commercial cultivation of Pacific oysters (Crassostrea gigas), Kumamoto Oyster (Crassostrea sikamea) and Manila clams (Venerupis philippinarum) on 40 acres of privately owned tidelands in Willapa bay. Pacific oysters and Manila Clams will be grown directly on the substrate between +1.0 to +3.2 MLLW. Also Pacific and Kumamoto Oysters may be suspended off bottom. Seeding will occur by hand or from a vessel through and harvest by hand or dredge/barge will occur after one to four years.

Manila Clam Culture

Manila clams will be grown in areas with suitable cultivation conditions. There are currently 10.5 acres in Manila clam cultivation, and the number of acres in clam cultivation is expected to vary from time to time based on environmental, market, and other conditions. The maximum area anticipated to be under Manila clam cultivation at any given time is 38 acres. Shell or gravel may be applied to enhance the substrate (no more than 1 inch per year). Clams may recruit naturally to the bed, but if there is no or inadequate natural recruitment, seed may be placed. Some or all of the acreage under Manila clam cultivation may be covered with predator exclusion netting. The mesh size of Manila clam nets is 1/4 inch. Nets are typically maintained throughout the culture cycle (approximately 2-3 years) and are secured to the substrate with rebar. Manila clams are harvested by hand at low tide with rakes.

Oyster Bottom Culture

Oysters will be grown directly on the substrate in areas with suitable cultivation conditions. There are currently 26.5 acres in oyster bottom cultivation, and the number of acres in oyster bottom cultivation is expected to vary from time to time based on environmental, market, and other conditions. The maximum area anticipated to be under oyster bottom cultivation at any given time is 38 acres. Oysters may naturally set on the bed or may be seeded by hand or from a vessel. Shell may be spread for catching naturally recruiting larvae. Oysters may be transplanted during grow-out to fattening beds. Oyster beds may be harrowed during grow-out to move the oysters back to the sediment surface. Oysters will be harvested by hand during low tide or by dredge after 3-4 years, depending on site conditions.

Oyster Off Bottom Culture

Oysters will be grown off the bottom of the substrate, utilizing the longline and/or the tumble bag methods. There are currently 1 acres in oyster off-bottom cultivation, and the number of acres in oyster off-bottom cultivation is expected to vary from time to time based on environmental, market, and other conditions. The maximum area anticipated to be under oyster off-bottom cultivation at any given time is 38 acres. The longline method involves inserting pipes into the substrate, and placing seeded cultch onto a rope suspended off the bottom by the pipes. The tumble bag method involves placing oysters in bags or baskets off the bottom, and attaching a float to the bag that tumbles the oysters. The oysters will be harvested by hand or mechanical means, either at high tide or at low tide.

The project site is located on tidelands within Willapa Bay, on parcel numbers 79005003231, 79005000107, 79005000001 and 79005000237, near Leadbetter Point, Pacific County, Washington; Section 16, Township 13 North, Range 11 West; WRIA 24, Willapa Watershed.

Pursuant to Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 as amended, Ecology concurs with Heckes Clams' 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

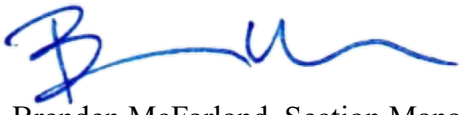
Street Address:
Pollution Control Hearings Board
1111 Israel RD SW
STE 301
Tumwater, WA 98501

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
Ronnie Smith, Corps of Engineers
Laura Hendricks, Coalition to Protect Puget Sound Habitat
Amy van Saun, Center for Food Safety
Marco Pinchot, Ecology
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