



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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January 14, 2022

Taylor Shellfish Farms  
Attn: Erin Ewald  
130 SE Lynch Road  
Shelton, WA 98584

RE: Amendment to Section 401 Water Quality Certification Order No. **19807** for Corps Reference No. **201701101**, TSF Ratfield Lease, Skagit County, Washington

Dear Erin Ewald:

Enclosed is an amendment to Water Quality Certification Order No. 19807, issued on April 8, 2021, for the above project. We have also included a strikeout version of the Water Quality Certification that reflects the changes made. All other conditions of Water Quality Certification No. 19807 remain in effect.

The purpose of this amendment is to reduce the cultivation footprint to 3 acres and remove oyster cultivation at this location.

If you have any questions about this decision, please contact Jennifer Riedmayer by e-mail at [Jennifer.Riedmayer@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Riedmayer@ecy.wa.gov). The enclosed Amendment may be appealed by following the procedures described in the Amendment.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure

First Amendment to Order No. 19807  
TSF Ratfield Lease  
Aquatics No. 139668, Corps No. 201701101  
January 14, 2022  
Page 2 of 2

e-cc: Matt Bennett, Corps of Engineers (Corps)  
Kirsten Brown, Corps of Engineers (Corps)  
Loree' Randall, Ecology  
Jennifer Riedmayer, Ecology  
ecyrefedpermits@ecy.wa.gov  
Aquaculture-Reinforcement-Team@usace.army.mil

**IN THE MATTER OF GRANTING A ) ORDER No. 19807**  
**WATER QUALITY ) First Amendment**  
**CERTIFICATION TO ) Corps Reference No. 201701101**  
Taylor Shellfish Farms )  
In accordance with 33U.S.C. 1341 (FWPCA )  
§401), RCW 90.48.120, RCW90.48.260 and )  
Chapter 173-201A WAC )

Taylor Shellfish Farms  
Attn: Erin Ewald  
130 SE Lynch Road  
Shelton, WA 98584

On April 8, 2021, the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) issued a Section 401 Water Quality Certification to Taylor Shellfish Farms for the above-referenced project pursuant to the provisions of 33 U.S.C. 1341 (FWPCA § 401).

Ecology received a request on December 22, 2021 to reduce the cultivation footprint to 3 acres for clam cultivation and to remove oyster cultivation at this location.

Order No. 19807 dated April 8, 2021, is hereby amended as follows:

I. The following paragraph, which reads:

This project proposes to commercially cultivate up to 7.8 acres of clams and oyster between +5.0 foot (ft.) and -3.0 ft. Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) on parcel numbers P61584 and P61587.

Is replaced with:

This project proposes to commercially cultivate up to 3 acres of clams between +5.0 foot (ft.) and -3.0 ft. Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) on parcel numbers P61584 and P61587.

II. The following paragraph is removed from the Water Quality Certification:

Oysters are grown in bags, on longlines near bottom, and on-bottom as both singles and clusters. Harvest takes place manually. On bottom oysters are placed into tubs for pick up and transfer by boat. Oyster bags are harvested by pulling bags up and emptying oysters onto barges for transfer. Bags are reused. Oysters grown on longlines are harvest manually pulling the lines and placing on scows and barges for transport to processing docks. No gravelling or (“frosting”) is proposed for this location.

No other conditions or requirements of the above referenced Order are affected by this amendment.

Ecology retains continuing jurisdiction to make modifications hereto through supplemental order, if it appears necessary to further protect the public interest.

Failure to comply with this amended Order may result in the issuance of civil penalties or other actions whether administrative or judicial, to enforce the terms of this amended Order.

## **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).

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

### **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

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

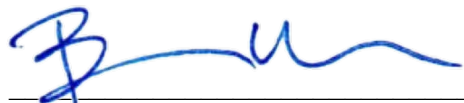
Please direct all questions about this Order to:

Jennifer Riedmayer  
Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600  
Jennifer.Riedmayer@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

January 14, 2022

Date

This document shows the activities and conditions that have been amended since the original Order was issued. Therefore, it is not the official certification and should be used for information purposes only.

<b>IN THE MATTER OF GRANTING A</b>	)	<b>ORDER No. 19807 – 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment</b>
<b>WATER QUALITY</b>	)	<b>Corps Reference No. 201701101</b>
<b>CERTIFICATION TO</b>	)	TSF Ratfield Lease located on tidelands within
Taylor Shellfish Farms	)	Samish Bay, near Bow, Skagit County,
pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1341 (FWPCA	)	Washington
§ 401), RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260	)	
and Chapter 173-201A WAC	)	

Taylor Shellfish Farms  
Attn: Erin Ewald  
130 SE Lynch Road  
Shelton, WA 98584

On February 13, 2021, Taylor Shellfish Farms submitted a request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) under the federal Clean Water Act for the TSF Ratfield Lease, Skagit County, Washington. The Department of Ecology (Ecology) issued a public notice for the project on February 24, 2021.

This project proposes to commercially cultivate up to ~~7.8~~ 3 acres of clams ~~and oyster~~ between +5.0 foot (ft.) and -3.0 ft. Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) on parcel numbers P61584 and P61587. Access to tidelands is by boat.

Clam seed is broadcasted by hand into the intertidal area. Some areas are netted, and some are not. Nets used may include mechanical predator netting that is inserted into the substrate with large metal staples in an effort to prevent predation. Harvest takes place manually by hand at low tide by using rakes to loosen the sediment and clams are collected. The grower may also use a mechanical clam digger, which is powered by a small engine that propels a blade to loosen the soil and collect clams. The clams are collected by a rake under the machine that gathers them onto a conveyor belt and placed in a tub for sorting by staff. Once the clams are harvest they are placed into sacks for pick up by boat. Littleneck and butter clams may be harvested incidentally when seeded clams are harvested.

~~Oysters are grown in bags, on longlines near bottom, and on bottom as both singles and clusters. Harvest takes place manually. On bottom oysters are placed into tubs for pick up and transfer by boat. Oyster bags are harvested by pulling bags up and emptying oysters onto barges for transfer. Bags are reused. Oysters grown on longlines are harvest manually pulling the lines and placing on scows and barges for transport to processing docks. No gravelling or (“frosting”) is proposed for this location.~~

The project site is located on tidelands within Samish Bay, on parcel number P61584 and P61587, near Bow, Skagit County, Washington; Section 30, Township 36 North, Range 3 West; WRIA 1, Nooksack Watershed and WRIA 3, Lower Skagit-Samish Watershed.

With this Order, Ecology is granting Taylor Shellfish Farms’s request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the TSF Ratfield Lease project, provided that the activity is conducted in

accordance with the Section 401 Water Quality Certification request and attachments Ecology received on February 13, 2021, and the following supporting documentation:

1. February 13, 2021 - Memo from Taylor Shellfish – Taylor Shellfish Water Quality Monitoring Protection Plan for this project. Regarding the project’s compliance with the conservation measures associated with the “Programmatic Biological Opinions for Shellfish Activities in Washington State Inland Marine Waters” (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Reference Number 01EWF00-2016-F-0121, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Reference Number WCR-2014-1502). This email also includes a description of Taylor Shellfish Farms water quality monitoring plan.

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, Taylor Shellfish Farms 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 Taylor Shellfish Farms 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 prohibited<sup>1</sup>. If such work, conditions, or discharges occur, immediately notify<sup>2</sup> 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 Division<sup>3</sup> 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 Taylor Shellfish Farms, TSF Ratfield Lease project.

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<sup>1</sup> RCW 90.48

<sup>2</sup> WAC 173-303-145

<sup>3</sup> RCW 90.56.280

*1<sup>st</sup> Amendment January 14, 2022*  
*Order No. 19807, Corps No. 201701101*  
*Aquatics No. 139668*  
*April 8, 2021*  
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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. **19807** will remain valid for the duration of the associated permit. Taylor Shellfish Farms should send a copy of the final DA permit to [fednotification@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:fednotification@ecy.wa.gov) within two weeks of receiving it.

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Please direct all questions about this Order to:

Jennifer Riedmayer  
Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600  
[Jennifer.Riedmayer@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Riedmayer@ecy.wa.gov)

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