January 14, 2022

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

RE: Water Quality Certification Order No. 20971 for Corps Reference No. 200701192, Station House Oyster Company Project 7, Pacific County, Washington

Dear James J. Kemmer:

On December 30, 2021, Station House Oyster Company submitted a request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) under the federal Clean Water Act for Station House Oyster Company Project 7 located on tidelands within Willapa Bay, near Long Beach, Pacific 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 Marco Pinchot by e-mail at marco.pinchot@ecy.wa.gov. The enclosed Order may be appealed by following the procedures described within the Order.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

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

e-cc:  Estrella F. Campellone, Corps of Engineers (Corps)
      Laura Hendricks, Coalition To Protect Puget Sound Habitat
      Amy van Saun, Center for Food Safety
      Marlene Meaders, Confluence Environmental Company
      Loree’ Randall, Ecology
      Marco Pinchot, Ecology
      ecyrefedpermits@ecy.wa.gov
      Aquaculture-Reinforcement-Team@usace.army.mil
IN THE MATTER OF GRANTING A WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION TO Station House Oyster Company pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1341 (FWPCA § 401), RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260 and Chapter 173-201A WAC

ORDER No. 20971
Corps Reference No. 200701192
Station House Oyster Company Project 7 located on tidelands within Willapa Bay, near Long Beach, Pacific County, Washington

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450 Chinook Valley Rd.
Chinook, WA 98614


This project proposes to continue to cultivate Manila clam (Venerupis philippinarum) on 4 acres of private intertidal land, between +2.0ft and +2.5ft Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) tidal elevation. Both native and non-native eelgrass are present within the project site.

Hatchery-grown clams are seeded by hand directly onto the beach substrate. Natural spawning and setting of clams will also occur.

Prior to planting, clam beds are prepared by applying a thin layer of washed gravel mixed with shell fragments directly to the substrate (also called “frosting”). Typically, only a portion of the bed is frosted at a time. This activity occurs every 2 years or so, when the tide is high enough to float a barge carrying the frosting material. Material will be distributed evenly across the bed from a barge or skiff to a depth of less than 0.5 inches when the tide is high enough to float a barge. Several thin layers of material may be placed over a period of days. To place a single 0.5-inch layer requires about 70 cubic yards of washed gravel or shell per acre. An individual site (or portion of the clam bed) would not be frosted more frequently than once every 2 years.

Clams are hand-harvested every 2-3 years during low tide, using a clam rake, shovel or other hand-operated tool. 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.

The project site is located on tidelands within Willapa Bay, on parcel number 11111555592 (TL 111115592), near Long Beach, Pacific County, Washington; Section 15, Township 11 North, Range 11 West; WRIA 24, Willapa Watershed.
With this Order, Ecology is granting Station House Oyster Company’s request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the Station House Oyster Company Project 7, provided that the activity is conducted in accordance with the Section 401 Water Quality Certification request and attachments Ecology received on December 30, 2021, and the following supporting documentation:

1. E-mail letter to Ecology dated December 30, 2021, 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 01EFW00-2016-F-0121, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Reference Number WCR-2014-1502). This email also includes a description of Station House Oyster Company’s 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, Station House Oyster Company 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 Station House Oyster Company 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. If such work, conditions, or discharges occur, immediately notify 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 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 Station House Oyster Company, Station House Oyster Company Project 7 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. 20971 will remain valid for the duration of the associated DA permit. Station House Oyster Company 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).

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mailing Address:</th>
<th>Street Address:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pollution Control Hearings Board</td>
<td>Pollution Control Hearings Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO Box 40903</td>
<td>1111 Israel RD SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olympia, WA  98504-0903</td>
<td>STE 301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tumwater, WA  98501</td>
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</tbody>
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Serving a copy of the appeal on Ecology:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mailing Address:</th>
<th>Street Address:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department of Ecology</td>
<td>Department of Ecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attn: Appeals Processing Desk</td>
<td>Attn: Appeals Processing Desk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO Box 47608</td>
<td>300 Desmond Drive SE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olympia, WA  98504-7608</td>
<td>Lacey, WA  98503</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please direct all questions about this Order to:

Marco Pinchot
Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA  98504-7600
marco.pinchot@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

- 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

- Chapter 173-200 WAC – Water Quality Standards for Ground Waters of the State of Washington

- 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

_______________________________________  January 14, 2022
Brenden McFarland, Section Manager   Date
Environmental Review and Transportation Section
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program
Department of Ecology