



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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February 25, 2022

Hama Hama Oyster Company  
Attn: Adam James  
35846 N US Hwy 101  
Lilliwaup, WA 98555

Re: Amendment to Section 401 Water Quality Certification Order No. **20187** for Corps Reference No. **200701286**, Hama Hama Shellfish Farm, Mason County, Washington

Dear Adam James:

Enclosed is an amendment to Water Quality Certification Order No. 20187, issued on July 16, 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. 20187 remain in effect.

The purpose of this amendment is to correct the acreage and parcel numbers for this project, due to previous mapping errors that caused the acreage to be underreported and modifications made to the subject parcels by Mason County. This is not a request for an expansion; the site plans included in the current application and in previous NWP verification letters correctly identified the mapped footprint of the overall project area and cultivation areas, and those site plans match those of the currently proposed project.

If you have any questions about this decision, please contact Teresa Pucylowski by e-mail at [teressa.pucylowski@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:teressa.pucylowski@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. 20187  
Hama Hama Shellfish Farm  
Aquatics No. 140137, Corps No. 200701286  
February 25, 2022  
Page 2 of 2*

E-cc: S. Brad Crosson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Laura Hendricks, Coalition To Protect Puget Sound Habitat  
Amy van Saun, Center for Food Safety  
Loree' Randall, Ecology  
Teresa Pucylowski, Ecology  
ecyrefedpermits@ecy.wa.gov  
Aquaculture-Reinforcement-Team@usace.army.mil

**IN THE MATTER OF GRANTING A ) ORDER No. 20187**  
**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION TO ) First Amendment**  
Hama Hama Oyster Company ) **Corps Reference No. 200701286**  
In accordance with 33 U.S.C. 1341 )  
(FWPCA §401), RCW 90.48.120, )  
RCW90.48.260 and Chapter 173-201A WAC )

Hama Hama Oyster Company  
Attn: Adam James  
35846 N US Hwy 101  
Lilliwaup, WA 98555

On July 16, 2021, the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) issued a Section 401 Water Quality Certification to Hama Hama Oyster Company for the above-referenced project pursuant to the provisions of 33 U.S.C. 1341 (FWPCA § 401).

Ecology received a notification from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) stating that there was a mapping error causing the acreage for this project to be underreported as well as a modification to certain parcels made by Mason County. Ecology notified Hama Hama Oyster Company on February 14, 2022 that a modification to the Section 401 Water Quality Certification was required to correct the acreage and parcel numbers. This is not a request for an expansion; the site plans included in the current application and in previous NWP verification letters correctly identified the mapped footprint of the overall project area and cultivation areas, and those site plans match those of the currently proposed project.

The purpose of this amendment is to correct the acreage and parcel numbers for this project, due to previous mapping errors that caused the acreage to be underreported and modifications made to the subject parcels by Mason County. This is not a request for an expansion; the site plans included in the current application and in previous NWP verification letters correctly identified the mapped footprint of the overall project area and cultivation areas, and those site plans match those of the currently proposed project.

Order No. 20187 dated July 16, 2021 is hereby amended as follows:

I. The second paragraph which reads:

This project will continue to cultivate 190 acres for shellfish farming on 216 acres of privately-owned tidelands between the ordinary high water mark at (+12ft) and the extreme low tide (-4ft). This farm cultivates geoduck, Pacific oysters, and Manila, littleneck, savory, and butter clams. Oysters occur on 210 acres between +5ft Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) and the extreme low tidal elevations; clams occur on 60 acres between +4ft MLLW and the -1ft MLLW tidal elevations; and geoduck occur on 30 acres between -1ft MLLW and the extreme low tidal elevations. Polyculture (co-culture) is practiced across much of the farm, meaning in many places multiple species of shellfish

are grown in and around one another. There is some eelgrass present at the project site in the lower areas below -2ft MLLW. Access to tidelands is by boat and by foot through uplands.

Is replaced with:

This project will continue to cultivate 270 acres for shellfish farming on 347 acres of privately-owned tidelands between the ordinary high water mark at (+12ft) and the extreme low tide (-4ft). This farm cultivates geoduck, Pacific oysters, and Manila, littleneck, savory, and butter clams. Oysters occur on 210 acres between +5ft Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) and the extreme low tidal elevations; at various times oysters will be harvested and containerized and "wet stored" (staged) on project areas between the +5-foot MLLW and +12-foot MLLW elevations. Clams occur on 60 acres between +4ft MLLW and the -1ft MLLW tidal elevations, and geoduck occur on 30 acres between -1ft MLLW and the extreme low tidal elevations. Polyculture (co-culture) is practiced across much of the farm, meaning in many places multiple species of shellfish are grown in and around one another. There is some eelgrass present at the project site in the lower areas below -2ft MLLW. Access to tidelands is by boat and by foot through uplands.

II. The sixth paragraph which reads:

The project site is located on tidelands within Hood Canal, on parcel numbers 324234380690, 324260004000, 324261280700, 324262180910, 324262280410, 324262280420, 324264470940, 32427107000, and 324271070890, adjacent to 35846 N US Hwy 101, near Lilliwaup, Mason County, Washington; Sections 23, 26 and 27, Township 24 North, Range 3 West; WRIA 16, Skokomish-Dosewallips Watershed.

Is replaced with:

The project site is located on tidelands within Hood Canal, on parcel numbers 324234380690, 324260004000, 324261280700, 324262180910, 324262280710, 324264470940, 32427107000, and 324271070890, adjacent to 35846 N US Hwy 101, near Lilliwaup, Mason County, Washington; Sections 23, 26 and 27, Township 24 North, Range 3 West; WRIA 16, Skokomish-Dosewallips Watershed.

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:

Teresa Pucylowski  
Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600  
teressa.pucylowski@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



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

February 25, 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.

**IN THE MATTER OF GRANTING A ) ORDER No. 20187 – 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment**  
**WATER QUALITY ) Corps Reference No. 200701286**  
**CERTIFICATION TO ) Hama Hama Shellfish Farm located on tidelands**  
Hama Hama Oyster Company ) within Hood Canal, near Lilliwaup, Mason  
pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1341 (FWPCA ) County, Washington  
§ 401), RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260 )  
and Chapter 173-201A WAC )

Hama Hama Oyster Company  
Attn: Adam James  
35846 N US Hwy 101  
Lilliwaup, WA 98555

On June 21, 2021, Hama Hama Oyster Company submitted a request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) under the federal Clean Water Act for the Hama Hama Shellfish Farm, Mason County, Washington. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) issued a joint public notice on June 25, 2021.

This project will continue to cultivate ~~270 190~~ acres for shellfish farming on ~~347 216~~ acres of privately-owned tidelands between the ordinary high water mark at (+12ft) and the extreme low tide (-4ft). This farm cultivates geoduck, Pacific oysters, and Manila, littleneck, savory, and butter clams. Oysters occur on ~~210 130~~ acres between +5ft Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) and the extreme low tidal elevations; **at various times oysters will be harvested and containerized and “wet stored” (staged) on project areas between the +5-foot MLLW and +12-foot MLLW elevations. Clams-elams** occur on 60 acres between +4ft MLLW and the -1ft MLLW tidal elevations; and geoduck occur on 30 acres between -1ft MLLW and the extreme low tidal elevations. Polyculture (co-culture) is practiced across much of the farm, meaning in many places multiple species of shellfish are grown in and around one another. There is some eelgrass present at the project site in the lower areas below -2ft MLLW. Access to tidelands is by boat and by foot through uplands.

Oyster cultivation occurs in clusters and singles. Clusters are cultivated through ‘shell cultch’ methodology, which entails oyster shells that are bagged, crated and/or threaded on a line and placed in the intertidal area during summer months to catch natural spat, and then transplanted and spread in a nursery or grow-out area. Harvest is completed by hand and oyster clusters are placed in a bushel basket and retrieved at high tide by a barge. Single oysters are grown directly on the substrate under anti-predator nets, in ‘bag on bottom’ culture method, or through off (near) bottom cultivation methodology that includes the following: ‘rack and bag’ culture, in which oysters are grown in bags secured to a wire mesh frame; floating bags, which are string along 100ft lines that are anchored to the substrate; and tipping bags, which are attached to posts and contain buoys that allow the bag to tip up and down with the tides. Grow out period for oysters is 2-3 years. Harvest takes place manually by hand during low tide and oysters are placed into tubs for pick up and transfer. Bags are harvested by pulling and emptying oysters onto barges for transfer. Bags are reused and hatchery seed is used.

Clams beds are ‘frosted’ with a mixture of washed gravel and oyster shell chaff, no more than 1” per acre per year. Clam seed is broadcasted by hand into the intertidal area. Some areas are netted and some are not, and the netted areas move around as needed. Anti-predator netting is installed by staking the net to the substrate using 24” bent rebar that is driven into the substrate. The grow-out period for clams is 18-24 months. Harvest takes place manually by hand at low tide using rakes to loosen the sediment and allow the clams to be collected into 5 gallon buckets. Full buckets are emptied into sacks for pick up by boat.

Geoduck cultivation will entail placing PVC or mesh nursery tubes, approximately 9” in length, manually into the lower intertidal substrate at a density of approximately one tube per square foot. Three to four geoduck seeds are placed in tubes. The PVC tubes are covered with canopy netting secured with rebar or with individual net coverings. Mesh tubes are covered with mesh caps. After approximately 18-24 months, the tubes are removed and the area is re-netted with canopy netting. Harvest occurs by hand using a low-pressure water pump with an attached wand that loosen the sediment around the geoducks for removal by hand. Harvest activity will occur approximately 5-7 years after planting.

The project site is located on tidelands within Hood Canal, on parcel numbers 324234380690, 324260004000, 324261280700, 324262180910, ~~324262280710, 324262280410, 324262280420,~~ 324264470940, 32427107000, and 324271070890, adjacent to 35846 N US Hwy 101, near Lilliwaup, Mason County, Washington; Sections 23, 26 and 27, Township 24 North, Range 3 West; WRIA 16, Skokomish-Dosewallips Watershed.

With this Order, Ecology is granting Hama Hama Oyster Company’s request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the Hama Hama Shellfish Farm project, provided that the activity is conducted in accordance with the Section 401 Water Quality Certification request and attachments Ecology received on June 21, 2021.

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, Hama Hama 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 Hama Hama 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<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 Hama Hama Oyster Company, Hama Hama Shellfish Farm 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. **20187** will remain valid for the duration of the associated DA permit. Hama Hama Oyster Company 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:

Teressa Pucylowski  
Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600  
[teressa.pucylowski@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:teressa.pucylowski@ecy.wa.gov)

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<sup>1</sup> RCW 90.48

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

<sup>3</sup> RCW 90.56.280