



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

PO Box 47600 • Olympia, WA 98504-7600 • 360-407-6000

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April 8, 2022

Heckes Clams Inc.  
Attn: John Heckes  
PO Box 131  
Chinook, WA 98614

Re: Coastal Zone Consistency for Corps Reference No. **202200169**,  
Heckes Clams Inc. DNR Lease 20-013272 and 20-013271, Pacific County,  
Washington

Dear John Heckes:

On March 30, 2022, 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*) on 53.59 acres of leased tidelands in Willapa Bay. Pacific oysters will be grown directly on the substrate between +2.0 to -16.0 feet. Seeding will occur from a vessel and harvest by dredge/barge will occur after one to four years.

#### Oyster Bottom Culture

Oysters will be grown directly on the substrate in areas with suitable cultivation conditions. There are currently 53.59 acres in oyster bottom cultivation, 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 53.59 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 not to exceed 1" averaged coverage. 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 1-4 years, depending on site conditions. Harvesting may occur at any time of the year, depending on environmental and market conditions. During hand harvest, workers use hand tools or hand-pick oysters and place

them into containers. Larger containers may be equipped with ropes and buoys that can be lifted onto the deck of a barge at high tide. Smaller containers may be placed or dumped on decks of scows for retrieval at high tide or are carried off the beach at low tide. Dredge harvest occurs by use of a harvest bag that is lowered from a barge or boat at high tide and pulled along the bottom to scoop up the oysters, and then emptied onto the boat or barge. Two dredge bags may be towed simultaneously off each side of the boat. An area may be dredged twice in succession to ensure maximum recovery of oysters. Harrowing may occur between the two successive dredge events to increase recovery. Oysters may be dredged after one year and then transplanted to a grow-out bed. In other cases, oysters may not be transplanted until they are closer to harvest size.

The project site is located on tidelands within Willapa Bay, on DNR Leases 20-013272 and 20-013271, near Long Island, Pacific County, Washington; Section 25, Township 12 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 Inc.'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](mailto: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, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Marco Pinchot, Ecology  
Loreé Randall, Ecology  
ecyrefedpermits@ecy.wa.gov