



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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

July 5, 2022

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
Attn: Zach Forster
PO Box 190
Ocean Park, WA 98640

Re: Coastal Zone Consistency for Corps Reference No. **201700250**,
Willapa Bay Oyster Reserves, Pacific County, Washington

Dear Zach Forster:

On July 1, 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 proposal to continue management of the Willapa Bay Oyster Reserves. The property currently serves a variety of uses including conservation of wild populations of oysters and clams, shellfish sale and enhancement activities, research and ecosystem services. The oyster reserves were established by the legislature around 1890. Since the 1920s, Pacific oysters have spawned and set naturally on the Willapa Bay Oyster Reserves and have formed the basis of a sustainable fishery. Currently the State of Washington utilize about 1,000 of the 9,985 acres for aquaculture activities while the rest remains in a relative natural state.

Licensed shellfish aquaculture companies bid on tracts of oysters and clams and the successful bidder (or bidders) enter into contract with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to purchase and harvest the shellfish from the tract. Purchaser shall return to the State 40% of the gross amount of shell from oyster purchases from this sale. If purchaser is unable to return shell from oysters purchased during this sale, purchaser may supply the required amount of shell from other sources.

Mechanical harvest of on ground oysters is done using a west coast style harvest method. This method can best be described as a boat towing a bag along the bottom surface to collect oysters. The bag is designed so that as it is towed over an oyster bed the oysters hit the lip of the opening and are retained in the bag.

The Long Island Reserve consists of 5,990 total acres of that 760 acres are currently under cultivation. All oysters and clams are cultured on bottom, 735 acres of

oyster/clam ground is primarily harvested by hand (up to 10 acres/year may be mechanically harvested) and 25 acres of oyster ground is designated for harvested by dredge.

Long Island Slough Reserve consist of 588 total acres of that 60 acres or ground cultured oysters are harvested by hand (Up to 10 acres/year may be mechanically harvested. Acreage not to exceed 10 when combined with the Long Island Reserve).

The Nemah Reserve consist of 2,677 total acres of that 145 acres are currently under cultivation. All oysters and clams are cultured on bottom, 125 acres of oyster ground is hand harvested and 20 acres of oyster ground is harvested by dredge.

The Willapa River Reserve consist of 476 total acres of that 40 acres are currently under cultivation. All oysters are on bottom and hand harvested.

The Bay Center Oyster Reserves comprised of 254.2 total acres. This area is almost entirely deep-water river channel and has never produced any significant populations of Pacific oysters. No records of sales of Pacific oysters from this reserve exist.

The project site is located on tidelands within Willapa Bay, on Long Island Oyster Reserve Section 1, Long Island Oyster Reserve Section 2, Long Island Oyster Reserve Section 3, Long Island Oyster Reserve Section 4, Long Island Slough Oyster Reserve, Nemah Oyster Reserve, Willapa River Oyster Reserve, Bay Center Oyster Reserve, near Nahcotta, Pacific County, Washington; Section 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, Township 11 N, 12 N, 13 N, 14 N, Range 11, 10 West ; WRIA 24, Willapa Watershed.

Pursuant to Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 as amended, Ecology concurs with Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife's determination that the proposed work is consistent with Washington's CZMP.

If you have any questions regarding Ecology's consistency determination, please contact Teresa.Pucylowski@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
Matthew Bennett, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Teresa Pucylowski, Ecology
Loreé Randall, Ecology
ecyrefedpermits@ecy.wa.gov