



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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

April 27, 2023

Seattle Shellfish, LLC  
Attn: Derek Epps  
2101 4th Ave E, STE 201  
Olympia, WA 98506

Re: Water Quality Certification Order No. **21653** for Corps Reference No. **202200909**,  
Peterson Shellfish Farm, Mason County, Washington

Dear Derek Epps:

On May 23, 2022, Seattle Shellfish, LLC submitted a request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) under the federal Clean Water Act for the Peterson Shellfish Farm located on tidelands within Case Inlet, near Shelton, Mason 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 (WQC Order).

Please ensure that anyone doing work under this WQC Order has read, is familiar with, and is able to follow all of the provisions within the attached WQC Order.

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 WQC Order may be appealed by following the procedures described within the WQC Order.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure (1)

By certified mail: 9489 0090 0027 6383 9287 22

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Sent via e-mail: [depps@seattleshellfish.com](mailto:depps@seattleshellfish.com)

E-cc: Rory Lee, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)  
Loree' Randall, Ecology  
Teresa Pucylowski, Ecology  
[Aquaculture-Reinforcement-Team@usace.army.mil](mailto:Aquaculture-Reinforcement-Team@usace.army.mil)  
[ECYREFEDPERMITS@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:ECYREFEDPERMITS@ecy.wa.gov)

<b>IN THE MATTER OF GRANTING A WATER</b>	)	<b>WQC ORDER No. 21653</b>
<b>QUALITY CERTIFICATION TO</b>	)	<b>Corps Reference No. 202200909</b>
Seattle Shellfish, LLC	)	<i>Peterson Shellfish Farm located on tidelands</i>
pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1341 (FWPCA	)	<i>within Case Inlet, near Shelton, Mason County,</i>
§ 401), RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260	)	<i>Washington</i>
and Chapter 173-201A WAC	)	

Seattle Shellfish, LLC  
Attn: Derek Epps  
2101 4<sup>th</sup> Ave E, STE 201  
Olympia, WA 98506

On May 23, 2022, Seattle Shellfish, LLC submitted a request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) under the federal Clean Water Act for the Peterson Shellfish Farm, Mason County, Washington. The Department of Ecology (Ecology) issued a public notice for the project on June 2, 2022.

This project will continue to commercially cultivate up to 1.9 acres of geoduck clams with no fallow ground. The entire project area lies between +5.0ft Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) and -4.5ft MLLW, or other property boundary, and within the property boundaries. There is no use of mechanical bed preparation equipment. There is no eelgrass present within the project area. Access occurs by boat.

Juvenile geoducks are planted in PVC or flexible mesh tubes, up to 6 inches in diameter and up to 13 inches in length. The tubes are inserted into the substrate such that only the top section (approximately 1/3) of the tube protrudes above the beach. Two to four seed clams are placed in each tube and tubes are typically installed at a density of about 1 tube per square foot. PVC tubes may be covered by individual and/or area netting. Individual netting consists of a small, plastic mesh net secured to the tube by a UV-resistant rubber band. Area netting is secured with rebar stakes placed vertically into the substrate and may be installed over the PVC or flexible mesh tubes.

About two years after planting, tubes are removed while area netting may be redeployed over the bed for several months for continued predator protection. Geoducks are then harvested 5-8 years after planting. Geoducks are harvested using a hand-operated water wand, which can occur at low (beach harvest) or high (dive harvest) tide. Typically, a wand is a pipe about 18 to 24 inches long with a nozzle on the end that releases surface-supplied seawater from a hose at a pressure of approximately 40 pounds per square inch (about the same pressure as that from a standard garden hose) and a flow of 20-30 gallons per minute. Multiple divers may work in an area at one time.

The project site is located on tidelands within Case Inlet, on parcel number 121312300050, near Shelton, Mason County, Washington; Section 31, Township 21 North, Range 1 West; WRIA 14, Kennedy-Goldsborough Watershed.

With this WQC Order, Ecology is granting Seattle Shellfish, LLC's request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the Peterson Shellfish Farm project, provided that the activity is conducted in accordance with the Section 401 Water Quality Certification request and attachments Ecology received on May 23, 2022.

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, Seattle Shellfish, LLC 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 Seattle Shellfish, LLC 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 Seattle Shellfish, LLC, Peterson 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. WQC Order No. **21653** will remain valid for the duration of the associated DA permit. Seattle Shellfish, LLC 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Chapter 90.48 RCW

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

<sup>3</sup> RCW 90.56.280

### Your right to appeal

You have a right to appeal this Order to the Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB) within 30 days of the date of receipt. 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). More information is available at <https://elaho.wa.gov/content/11>.

To appeal, you must do all of the following within 30 days of the date of receipt of this Order:

- File your notice of appeal and a copy of this Order with the PCHB (see filing options below). "Filing" means actual receipt by the PCHB during regular business hours as defined in WAC 371-08-305 and -335. "Notice of appeal" is defined in WAC 371-08-340.
- Serve a copy of your notice of appeal and this Order on the Department of 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.

### Filing an appeal with the PCHB:

For the most current information regarding filing with the PCHB, visit:  
<https://elaho.wa.gov/content/11>

#### Filing by mail

##### Mailing Address:

Pollution Control Hearings Board  
PO Box 40903  
Olympia, WA 98504-0903

#### Filing in person (or by certified mail/courier)

##### Street Address:

Pollution Control Hearings Board  
1111 Israel RD SW, STE 301  
Tumwater, WA 98501

#### Filing Electronically

##### E-mail Address:

Pchb-shbappeals@elaho.wa.gov

### Serving a copy of the appeal on Ecology:

Electronic copies of appeals are not accepted at the Department Ecology per WAC 371-08-305(10).

#### Filing by mail

##### Mailing Address:

Department of Ecology  
Attn: Appeals Processing Desk  
PO Box 47608  
Olympia, WA 98504-7608

#### Filing in person (or by certified mail/courier)

##### Street Address:

Department of Ecology  
Attn: Appeals Processing Desk  
300 Desmond Drive SE  
Lacey, WA 98503

## Contact Information

Please direct all questions about this WQC 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/content/11>
- **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, HQ  
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program  
Department of Ecology

April 27, 2023  
Date