



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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

September 5, 2023

Sound Shellfish
ATTN: Ian Child
PO Box 12475
Olympia, WA 98508

Re: Coastal Zone Management Federal Consistency Decision for Sound Shellfish Geoduck and Oyster Aquaculture (Corps No. NWS-2023-0024), Case Inlet, near City of Harstine Island, Mason County, Washington

Dear Ian Child:

On June 2, 2023, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) received a Certification of Consistency with the Washington State Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP) for the above project. Pursuant to Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 as amended, Ecology concurs with Sound Shellfish's determination that the proposed work is consistent with Washington's CZMP.

This project proposes to cultivate approximately 0.17 acres of Pacific oysters and approximately 0.52 acres of geoduck on privately-owned tidelands. Oysters are grown between +3.5 feet Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) and 0.0 ft MLLW; geoduck are grown between 0.0 ft MLLW and -4.3 feet MLLW. No kelp or eelgrass was observed at the site. After the beach has been planted farm maintenance will occur on a regular basis.

Geoduck Cultivation

To protect the juvenile geoduck clams from predators, 4" diameter by 12" to 16"-long PVC (polyvinyl chloride) or 4" diameter by 12" - 16" long Vexar mesh tubes will be pushed vertically into the beach substrate at a density not to exceed one tube per square foot. Approximately 3 to 5 inches of the tube will be exposed above the surface of the substrate. Tube placement will take place during low tide over a number of subsequent days and tidal cycles.

If PVC tubes are used, the juvenile clams will be put into the tubes and a mesh cap placed over the end of each tube, secured with a specialized rubber band designed to withstand UV light and saltwater. If Vexar mesh tubes are used, the exposed top will be secured closed using zip-

ties or hog rings. The tubes may be covered with area netting (3" stretched mesh) for containment of tubes. Netting is pinned in place using 24" long hairpin pieces of rebar and weighted down with linear lengths of rebar. Netting removal may occur at 24 to 48 months following planting. Placement of tubes in the sand, seed into the tubes, mesh caps/bands over the tops of the tubes, and area nets (if used) will all be done by hand and/or with the assistance of a low-pressure waterjet for the installation of Vexar mesh tubes. Six to twelve months following the initial planting, the mesh caps and rubber bands (if used) will be removed by hand from each tube.

Harvesting may occur on the beach during low tides or at other times using divers. The extraction techniques used for dive and beach harvest are similar. Harvest of clams will be accomplished by means of a motorized, low pressure water pump mounted on a vessel moored offshore. When the nozzle is inserted into the sand, water flowing from nozzle softens the sand adjacent to the geoduck, allowing them to be removed by hand one at a time from the substrate.

Oyster Cultivation

To protect the juvenile Pacific Oysters from predators a mesh bag of 6 to 9mm is used. Approximately 250 juvenile oyster seed are placed inside the bag and closed. The bags are placed onto the beach in rows of 10. Two ropes pinned on the ends with 24" rebar pins are then used to secure the bags to the beach. It is anticipated that one to three years of growth will be needed before market size Pacific oysters can be harvested from this beach. The harvest of oysters will be accomplished by means of hand picking at low tide. Bags are removed by hand from the beach, put into a boat, and brought to the processing shop. Harvests occur in daylight hours during periods of the year when low tides are available for accessing the beach.

The project site is located on tidelands within Case Inlet, on parcel number 12030-14-70000, near Harstine Island, Mason County, Washington; Section 30, Township 20 North, Range 1 West; WRIA 14, Kennedy-Goldsborough Watershed.

If you have any questions regarding Ecology's decision, please contact Teresa Pucylowski at (360) 764-0546.

Your right to appeal

You have a right to appeal this decision 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).

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

- File your notice of appeal and a copy of this decision with the PCHB (see filing information 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 decision on the Department of Ecology mail, in person, or by email (see addresses below).

You must also comply with other applicable requirements in Chapter 43.21B RCW and Chapter 371-08 WAC.

Filing an appeal

Filing with the PCHB

For the most current information regarding filing with the PCHB, visit: <https://elaho.wa.gov/> or call: 360-664-9160.

Service on Ecology

Street Addresses:

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

Mailing Addresses:

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

E-Mail Address:

ecologyappeals@ecy.wa.gov

Sincerely,



Loree' Randall, Section Manager
Federal Permitting Section
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

Sent via e-mail: soundshellfish@comcast.net

Corps No. NWS-2023-0024, Aquatics ID No. 142287
Sound Shellfish Geoduck and Oyster Aquaculture
September 5, 2023
Page 4 of 4

E-cc: Rory Lee, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Kimberly McClurg, Marine Surveys & Assessments
Teresa Pucylowski, Ecology
fedconsistency@ecy.wa.gov