



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY**

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

July 8, 2024

Taylor Shellfish Farms  
Attn: Erin Ewald  
130 SE Lynch Road  
Shelton, WA 98584

Re: Coastal Zone Management Federal Consistency Decision for Pickering Passage State WA DNR Lease 20-096483 (Corps No. **NWS-2023-0882**), Pickering Passage, near Grapeview, Mason County, Washington

Dear Erin Ewald:

On December 26, 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 Taylor Shellfish Farms' determination that the proposed work is consistent with Washington's CZMP.

On June 13, 2024, Taylor Shellfish Farms and Ecology agreed to stay the CZM until July 9, 2024 to allow time for Ecology to review the Conditional Use Permit approved by the local government.

The proposed work is to commercially cultivate geoduck clams on 1.9 acres of state-owned tidelands between 0.0 ft and -4.5 ft Mean Lower Low Water. There are no eelgrass or kelp beds mapped (WA DNR seagrass mapping) or observed on this site. Access to the project area will primarily be by boat. Occasional access to the farm will be from an upland Department of Transportation road pulloff point in Victor, Washington.

Hatchery-raised juvenile geoduck clams will be planted in the substrate by hand in 18-inch-long mesh HDPE tubes inserted into the substrate on 15-inch centers to a depth of approximately nine inches. Tubes are removed after approximately 18-24 months. The area may be netted temporarily if predation is observed, but then removed once it can be determined that the geoduck can evade predators. Net would be secured with bent rebar pushed flush into the

substrate every 25 feet. Net is removed once geoduck can evade predation, or the predation threat is reduced.

The beach is then left undisturbed until harvest five to seven years after planting. The geoducks are harvested in the intertidal zone at low tide or by divers at high tide. In either case, the geoducks are typically harvested using hand-operated water jet probes. For water jet harvest, the probe is a pipe about 18 to 24 inches long with a nozzle on the end that releases surface-supplied seawater from a one-inch internal diameter hose at a pressure of about 40 pounds per square inch (about the same pressure as that from a standard garden hose) and a flow of up to 20 gallons per minute. This harvest method allows the hand extraction of geoducks, which burrow as deep as three feet. The harvester inserts the probe in the substrate next to an exposed geoduck siphon or the hole left when the siphon is retracted. By discharging pressurized water around the geoduck, the sediment is loosened, and the clam is removed by hand. Multiple divers may work in an area at one time and geoduck harvesting occurs year-round. The harvest and replanting process would take four to six months, with harvest activities limited to approximately four hours a day.

The project site is located on tidelands within Pickering Passage, on DNR parcel number 20-096483, near Grapeview, Mason County, Washington.

If you have any questions regarding Ecology's decision, please contact Brook Swensen at 564-999-1749.

## **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 this 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

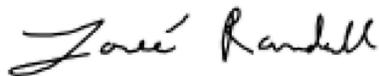
#### Mailing Addresses:

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

#### E-Mail Address:

[ecologyappeals@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:ecologyappeals@ecy.wa.gov)

Sincerely,



Loree' Randall, Section Manager  
Aquatic Permitting & Protection Section  
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

Sent via e-mail: [erine@taylorshellfish.com](mailto:erine@taylorshellfish.com)

E-cc: Brody Garner, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Brook Swensen, Ecology  
[fedconsistency@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:fedconsistency@ecy.wa.gov)