



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY**

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

August 27, 2024

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Attn: Katherine L. Cousins  
4735 E. Marginal Way S. Bldg. 1202  
Seattle, WA 98134-3755

Re: Water Quality Certification Order No. **23190**, Willapa Bay Navigation Channel  
Maintenance Dredging and Open-water Disposal, Pacific County, Washington

Dear Katherine L. Cousins:

On May 6, 2024, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers submitted a request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) under the federal Clean Water Act for the Willapa Bay Navigation Channel Maintenance Dredging and Open-water Disposal project in Pacific County, Washington. On behalf of the state of Washington, the Department of Ecology certifies with conditions that the work described in the Water Quality Certification Request and supplemental documents 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 enclosed Water Quality Certification 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 Brook Swensen at 564-999-1749. The enclosed WQC Order may be appealed by following the procedures described within.

Sincerely,

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

Willapa Bay Navigation Channel Maintenance Dredging and Open-water Disposal  
WQC Order No. 23190, Aquatics ID No. 143246  
August 27, 2024  
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Enclosure (2)

By certified mail: 9489 0090 0027 6391 8525 07

Sent via e-mail: [Katherine.L.Cousins@usace.army.mil](mailto:Katherine.L.Cousins@usace.army.mil)

E-cc: Caren Crandell, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Lauren Bauernschmidt, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Amy Spoon, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Brook Swensen, Ecology  
[ECYREFEDPERMITS@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:ECYREFEDPERMITS@ecy.wa.gov)

**In The Matter of Granting a Water Quality  
Certification with Conditions to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1341 (FWPCA § 401), RCW 90.48.120,  
RCW 90.48.260 and Chapter 173-201A WAC**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Attn: Katherine L. Cousins  
4735 E. Marginal Way S. Bldg. 1202  
Seattle, WA 98134-3755

<b>WQC Order No.</b>	23190
<b>Site Location</b>	Willapa Bay Navigation Channel Maintenance Dredging and Open-water Disposal, located within Willapa Bay and the Palix River near Bay Center, Pacific County, Washington.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers submitted a request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) under the federal Clean Water Act to the Department of Ecology (Ecology) for the Willapa Bay Navigation Channel Maintenance Dredging and Open-water Disposal project in Pacific County, Washington. The following required processing dates are listed below:

- On November 22, 2023, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers submitted a pre-filing meeting request.
- On May 6, 2024, Ecology received a request for Clean Water Section 401 Water Quality Certification.
- On May 17, 2024, Ecology issued a public notice for the project.
- Ecology’s “Reasonable Period of Time” for this project has been established as November 6, 2024.

The project includes dredging three authorized navigation channels within Willapa Bay and one section of dredging in the Palix River to access the authorized navigation channel.

**Bay Center**

**Entrance Channel and Mooring Basin Access Lane:** An entrance channel 40 feet wide and 3,600 feet long, and an access lane into the boat basin to the authorized depth of -10 feet MLLW plus an additional 2 feet of allowable overdepth and 2 feet of advanced maintenance (for a total depth of - 14 feet MLLW). An estimated 67,000 cubic yards (cy) of accumulated sediment would be dredged per event.

Palix River Access Lane: A channel 40 feet wide and about 3,600 feet long, to the authorized depth of -10 feet MLLW. An estimated 55,000 cy of accumulated sediment would be dredged from shoals shallower than -10 feet MLLW per event. However, this amount has the potential to change between dredge events due to the dynamic nature of the Palix River at its confluence with Willapa Bay. The Palix River thalweg can change position resulting in shifting shoals along the river and at the river's entrance. An access lane would follow the Palix River thalweg between the bay and to the Bay Center Federal navigation channel. Only shoals within that thalweg would need to be dredged to allow for safe transit of dredge, scows, and tugboats from Bay Center to the disposal sites. For this reason, a specific alignment of the access lane would be based on thalweg conditions and shoals greater than -10 feet MLLW prior to the time of dredging for any given dredging event.

Tokeland Entrance Channel: An entrance channel 100 feet wide and 600 feet long, to an authorized depth of -15 feet MLLW plus an additional 2 feet of allowable overdepth and 2 feet of advanced maintenance (total depth is -19 MLLW). An estimated 53,000 cy of accumulated sediment would be dredged per event.

Nahcotta Entrance Channel and Mooring Basin Access Lane: An entrance channel 200 feet wide and 350 feet long, and a wider mooring basin access lane approximately 1,210 feet long and 275 feet wide, to an authorized depth of -10 feet MLLW plus 2 feet of advance maintenance and 2 feet of allowable overdepth (total depth is -14 MLLW). An estimated 155,000 cy of accumulated sediment would be dredged per event.

The authorized depths would be maintained to the above-listed dimensions using mechanical/clamshell dredging. The maximum volume expected to be dredged per event of the project (up to four events and expected to occur approximately once every 5 years) is estimated at about 330,000 cy, for a total of approximately 1.32 million cy of material over a 15-year period. A temporary access channel would be dredged in order to reach the Bay Center channel. It is estimated that about 55,000 cy of material (this volume may change between dredge events due to the dynamic nature of the Palix River thalweg shifting shoals in the dredge area) could be dredged per event in the temporary access channel for a total of about 220,000 cy of material. The proposed dredge material within the Palix River Access Lane was characterized to a depth of -10 feet MLLW without additional overdepth or advanced maintenance. All other features would include 2 feet each of overdepth and advanced maintenance.

Dredged material is proposed to be disposed of at two authorized and active open-water disposal locations within the main water flow-lanes of Willapa Bay. The active disposal sites are the South Channel site (between Bay Center and Leadbetter Point) and the Cape Shoalwater site (near to northern margin of the entrance to the bay). Both sites are dispersive, elliptical, subtidal/estuarine sites within Willapa Bay.

The project site is located in Willapa Bay and the Palix River, Pacific County, Washington. Sections 18, 10, and 27; Townships 14N, 13N, 12N; Ranges 11W and 10W; within Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 24, Willapa Basin.

**Authorities**

In exercising authority under 33 U.S.C. §1341, 40 CFR Part 121, RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260, and Chapter 173-201A, Ecology has reviewed this WQC request pursuant to the following:

1. Conformance with applicable water quality-based, technology-based, and toxic or pretreatment effluent limitations as provided under 33 U.S.C. §§1311, 1312, 1313, 1316, and 1317.
2. Conformance with the state water quality standards contained in Chapter 173-201A WAC and authorized by 33 U.S.C. §1313 and by Chapter 90.48 RCW, and with other applicable state laws; and
3. Conformance with the provision of using all known, available and reasonable methods to prevent and control pollution of state waters as required by RCW 90.48.010.
4. Conformance with Washington’s prohibition on discharges that cause or tend to cause pollution of waters of the state of Washington. RCW 90.48.080.
5. The Project Proponent of the project authorized is responsible for obtaining all other permits, licenses, and certifications that may be required by federal, state, local or tribal authorities.

With this Water Quality Certification Order (WQC Order), Ecology is granting with conditions the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the Willapa Bay Navigation Channel Maintenance Dredging and Open-water Disposal project, located in Willapa Bay and the Palix River, Pacific County. Ecology has determined that the proposed discharges will comply with all applicable state water quality and other appropriate requirements of State law, provided the project is conducted in accordance with the WQC request that Ecology received on May 6, 2024, the supporting documents referenced in Table 1 below, **and the conditions of this WQC Order.**

**Table 1** Supporting Documents

Date Received	Document Type	Title and Date	Author
5/6/2024	Joint Aquatic Resources Form	Joint Aquatic Resources Form	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
5/6/2024	Drawings	Tables 1 and Figures 1-3	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Willapa Bay Navigation Channel Maintenance Dredging and Open-water Disposal

WQC Order No. 23190, Aquatics ID No. 143246

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5/6/2024	Clean Water Act Section 404 (b)(1) Analysis	Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)/Clean Water Act Section 404 Statement of Findings (SOF), May 2024	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
5/6/2024	Suitability Determination	Suitability Determination Memorandum for the Willapa Bay Federal Navigation Project (Tokeland marina, Nahcotta mooring basin, and Bay Center entrance channel) in Willapa Bay, Washington 2/19/2021	Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP)
5/6/2024	Extended Area of Mixing Rationale	Extended Area of Mixing rationale for Willapa Bay Maintenance Dredging Project (Tokeland, Nahcotta, and Bay Center), Pacific County, Washington, 5/2/2024	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
5/22/2024	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Act Concurrence Letter	Endangered Species Act Concurrence Letter, 3/19/2024	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5/22/2024	National Marine Fisheries Service Endangered Species Act Section 7(a)(2) Concurrence Letter	Endangered Species Act Section 7(a)(2) Concurrence Letter and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Response for the Willapa Bay Federal Navigation Project, 11/20/2023	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service

7/2/2024	Water Quality Monitoring Plan	Draft Water Quality Monitoring Plan, 6/10/2024	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
8/13/2024	Email with In-Water Work Window Confirmation	In-Water Work Window Confirmation, 8/13/2024	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Issuance of this Section 401 Water Quality Certification for this proposal does not authorize U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 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) or other appropriate requirements of State law. Furthermore, nothing in this Section 401 Water Quality Certification absolves the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from liability for contamination and any subsequent cleanup of surface waters, ground waters, or sediments resulting from project construction or operations.

**Water Quality Certification Conditions**

The following conditions will be incorporated into the Corps permit and strictly adhered to by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Specific condition justifications and citations are provided below.

**A. General Conditions**

1. In this WQC Order, the term “Project Proponent” shall mean the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its agents, assignees, and contractors.
  - Justification - Ecology needs to identify that conditions of this WQC Order apply to anyone conducting work on behalf of the Project Proponent to ensure compliance with the water quality standards and other applicable state laws.
  - Citation - 40 CFR 121.1(j), Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.080, RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260, Chapter 173-200 WAC, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
  
2. All submittals required by this WQC Order shall be sent to Ecology’s Headquarters Office, Attn: Federal Permit Manager, via e-mail to [fednotification@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:fednotification@ecy.wa.gov) and cc to [Brook.Swensen@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Brook.Swensen@ecy.wa.gov). The submittals shall be identified with WQC Order No. 23190 and include the Project Proponent’s name, project name, project contact, and the contact phone number.
  - Justification - Ecology needs to identify where information and submittals are to be submitted to be in compliance with the requirements of this WQC Order.

- Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
3. Work authorized by this WQC Order is limited to the work described in the WQC request package received by Ecology on May 6, 2024, and the supporting documentation identified in Table 1.
- Justification - Ecology has the authority to prevent and control pollution of state waters. By authorizing a discharge into a water of the state, through a WQC, Ecology is certifying the project as proposed will not negatively impact water quality. Therefore, it is imperative the project is conducted as it was presented during the review process. Any deviations from information within the WQC Request package and this WQC Order must be disclosed prior to the initiation of the planned work, and may require a new WQC request.
  - Citation - 40 CFR 121.5, 40 CFR 121.10, 40 CFR 121.11, Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260, Chapter 173-200 WAC, Chapter 173-201A WAC, Chapter 173-204 WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
4. The Project Proponent shall keep copies of this WQC Order on the job site and readily available for reference by Ecology personnel, the construction superintendent, construction managers and lead workers, and state and local government inspectors.
- Justification - All parties (including on-site contractors) must be aware of and comply with the WQC Order for the protection of water quality.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
5. The Project Proponent shall provide access to the project site and all mitigation sites upon request by Ecology personnel for site inspections, monitoring, and/or necessary data collection, to ensure that conditions of this WQC Order are being met.
- Justification - Ecology must be able to investigate and inspect construction sites and facilities for compliance with all state rules and laws.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.090, RCW 90.48.120, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
6. The Project Proponent shall ensure that all project engineers, contractors, and other workers at the project site with authority to direct work have read and understand relevant conditions of this WQC Order and all permits, approvals, and documents referenced in this WQC Order. The Project Proponent shall provide Ecology a signed statement (see Attachment A for an example) before construction begins.



- Justification - Ecology needs to ensure that anyone conducting work at the project, on behalf of the Project Proponent, are aware of and understand the required conditions of this WQC Order to ensure compliance with the water quality standards and other applicable state laws.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
7. This WQC Order does not authorize direct, indirect, permanent, or temporary impacts to waters of the state or related aquatic resources, except as specifically provided for in conditions of this WQC Order.
- Justification - Ecology has the authority to prevent and control pollution of state waters, and to protect designated uses. By authorizing a discharge into a water of the state, through a water quality certification, Ecology is certifying the project as proposed will not negatively impact state water quality and will comply with the state's water quality requirements. Therefore, it is imperative the project is conducted as it was presented during the review process, and as conditioned herein.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.120, Chapter 173-200 WAC, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300(2)(e)(i), WAC 173-201A-310, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
8. Failure of any person or entity to comply with the WQC Order may result in the issuance of civil penalties or other actions, whether administrative or judicial, to enforce the state's water quality standards and the conditions of this WQC Order.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses. Ecology has independent state authority to ensure protection of state water quality. Civil penalties and other enforcement actions are the primary means of securing compliance with water quality requirements.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.037, RCW 90.48.080, RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.140, RCW 90.48.142, RCW 90.48.144, and WAC 173-225-010.
9. The Project Proponent shall provide Ecology documentation for review before undertaking any major changes to the proposed project that could significantly and adversely affect water quality, other than those project changes required by this WQC Order.

- Justification - Ecology has independent authority to enforce our 401 certification conditions issued through this WQC Order pursuant to RCW 90.48, and has independent state authority to ensure protection of state water quality. In order to ensure the project will comply with water quality standards in the event of any major changes, Ecology must be able to review the scope of work involved in the construction and operation of the project, otherwise all work must stop and a new 401 certification pre-filing meeting, followed by a new WQC request (after requisite 30-days) is required.
- Citation - 40 CFR 121.1(k) and (n), 40 CFR 121.3, 40 CFR 121.5, 40 CFR 121.11, Chapter 90.48 RCW, and Chapter 173-201 WAC.

## B. Notification Requirements

1. The following notifications shall be made via phone or e-mail (e-mail is preferred) to Ecology's Federal Permit Manager via e-mail to [fednotification@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:fednotification@ecy.wa.gov) and cc to [Brook.Swensen@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Brook.Swensen@ecy.wa.gov). Notifications shall be identified with WQC Order No. 23190, and include the Project Proponent name, project name, project location, project contact and the phone number.
  - a. Immediately following a violation of state water quality standards or when the project is out of compliance with any conditions of this WQC Order;
  - b. At least ten (10) days prior to conducting initial in-water work activities; and
  - c. Within seven (7) days of completion of each dredging cycle.
    - Justification - Ecology has independent state authority to ensure protection of state water quality. Ecology must be aware of when a project starts and ends and whether there are any issues. This allows Ecology to evaluate compliance with the state water quality requirements.
    - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.120, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, Chapter 173-204 WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
2. In addition to the phone or e-mail notification required under B.1.a. above, the Project Proponent shall submit a detailed written report to Ecology within five (5) days that describes the nature of the event, corrective action taken and/or planned, steps to be taken to prevent a recurrence, results of any samples taken, and any other pertinent information.
  - Justification - Ecology has independent state authority to ensure protection of state water quality. This condition is intended to assure the Project Proponent remains in full compliance with state water quality requirements for the duration of the project.

- Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.120, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.

### **C. Timing**

1. This WQC Order will expire February 15, 2039.

- Justification - Certifications are required for any license or permit that authorizes an activity that may result in a discharge. Ecology needs to be able to specify how long the WQC Order will be in effect.

- Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.

2. The following in-water work windows apply to the project:

a. All activities within the wetted perimeter of Willapa Bay, Bay Center Entrance Channel and Mooring Basin Access Lane may be conducted between July 16<sup>th</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> of any year.

b. All activities within the wetted perimeter of the Palix River Access Lane may be conducted between July 16<sup>th</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> of any year.

c. All activities within the wetted perimeter of Willapa Bay, Tokeland Entrance Channel may be conducted between July 16<sup>th</sup> to February 15<sup>th</sup> of any year.

d. All activities within the wetted perimeter of Willapa Bay, Nahcotta Entrance Channel and Mooring Basin Access Lane may be conducted between July 16<sup>th</sup> to February 1<sup>st</sup> of any year.

- Justification - This condition is reaffirming the project will take place during a time period that will not harm fish or other aquatic species.

- Citation - Chapter 77.55 RCW, Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300, WAC 173-201A-330, WAC 173-225-010, and Chapter 220-660 WAC.

### **D. Water Quality Monitoring and Criteria**

1. This WQC Order does not authorize the Project Proponent to exceed applicable water quality standards beyond the limits established in Chapter 173-201A WAC, except as authorized by this WQC Order.

- Justification - This condition ensures compliance with water quality standards to protect surface waters of the state. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
2. For in-water activities within marine waters turbidity shall not exceed 5 NTU over background when the background is 50 NTU or less; or a 10 percent increase in turbidity when the background turbidity is more than 50 NTU.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution and prevent exceedances of the water quality standards that protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
3. For the activities identified below in Table 2, the Project Proponent is granted a larger area of mixing for turbidity and shall comply with the point of compliance.

Table 2: Area of Mixing

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Waterbody</b>	<b>Point of Compliance</b>
Mechanical (clamshell) dredging	Willapa Bay and Palix River (Tokeland, Nahcotta, and Bay Center/Bay Center access)	A radius of 400 feet from the activity causing the turbidity exceedance.
Dredge material open-water disposal	Willapa Bay open-water disposal locations (Cape Shoalwater and South Channel)	A radius of 400 feet from the activity causing the turbidity exceedance.

- Justification - This condition is necessary to ensure that the monitoring as proposed by the Project Proponent and authorized by Ecology is conducted to protect water quality. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
- Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.

4. The Project Proponent shall conduct water quality monitoring as described in the approved Draft Water Quality Monitoring Plan, identified in Table 1 (hereafter referred to as the WQMP).
  - Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution and prevent exceedances of the water quality standards that protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - RCW 90.48, RCW 90.48.030, Chapter 173-201A WAC, 173-201A-300-330 and WAC 173-225-010.
5. The Project Proponent shall revise the WQMP, identified in Table 1, to be consistent with the conditions of this WQC Order. The revised Plan shall be submitted to Ecology's Federal Permit Manager (per Condition A.2 of this Order) **for review** at least 30 days prior to beginning any work covered by this WQC Order.
  - Justification - This condition is necessary to ensure that the monitoring and BMPs that are proposed by the Project Proponent and authorized by Ecology are conducted to protect water quality. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
6. If water quality exceedances for turbidity are observed outside the point of compliance, work shall cease immediately and the Project Proponent or the contractor shall assess the cause of the water quality problem and take immediate action to stop, contain, and correct the problem and prevent further water quality turbidity exceedances.
  - Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution and prevent exceedances of the water quality standards that protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
7. Visible turbidity anywhere beyond the temporary area of mixing (point of compliance) from the activity, shall be considered an exceedance of the standard.
  - Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution and prevent exceedances of the water quality standards that protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.

- Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
8. Monitoring results shall be submitted monthly to Ecology's Federal Permit Manager, per condition A.2.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution and prevent exceedances of the water quality standards that protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
9. Ecology may ask or could use its discretionary authority to require the Project Proponent to provide mitigation and/or additional monitoring if the monitoring results indicate that the water quality standards have not been met.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution and ensure that aquatic life and beneficial uses are protected.
  - Citation - RCW 90.48, RCW 90.48.010, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, RCW 90.48.120, Chapter 173-201A WAC, 173-201A-300-330 WAC, and Chapter 173-204 WAC.

#### **E. Equipment and Maintenance**

1. Equipment used for this project shall be free of external petroleum-based products while used around the waters of the state. Accumulation of soils or debris shall be removed from the drive mechanisms and equipment prior to its use around waters of the state.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
2. Fuel hoses, oil drums, oil or fuel transfer valves and fittings, etc., shall be checked regularly for drips or leaks, and shall be maintained and stored properly to prevent spills into state waters.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.

- Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, Chapter 173-200, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
3. Barges shall be operated with minimal propulsion power and prevent propeller wash to seagrass, kelp, and forage fish spawning beds. Additionally, barges shall not be allowed to ground-out during in-water activities.
    - Justification - This condition is necessary to protect shallow water habitat and prevent suspension of sediment. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
    - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, Chapter 173-201A WAC, 173-201A-300-330 WAC, and Chapter 173-204 WAC.
  4. Anchors or spuds shall not be deployed in seagrass or kelp and anchors or mooring cables shall not be allowed to drag through seagrass or kelp.
    - Justification - This condition is necessary to protect shallow water habitat and prevent suspension of sediment. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
    - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, Chapter 173-201A WAC, 173-201A-300-330 WAC, and Chapter 173-204 WAC.
  5. Barges shall be kept free of material that could be blown into water.
    - Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
    - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.

## **F. Dredging**

1. All dredging is to be done using a mechanical (clamshell) dredge. Ecology must approve any other dredging method prior to its use.

- Justification - Ecology has reviewed the project and the BMPs for a specific type of dredging. Changes to the dredging method would require different BMPs. If new dredging methods are proposed, a new WQC pre-filing meeting request, followed by a new WQC request (after requisite 30-days) is required.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.52-040 RCW, Chapter 90.54.020(2)(b) RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, Chapter 173-201A-240(5)(b) WAC, and Chapter 173-204-400(2) WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
2. All suitable dredged material will be disposed of by bottom dump barge at the Cape Shoalwater and South Channel open water disposal sites in Willapa Bay.
- Justification - Ecology has reviewed the project and the BMPs for a specific type of disposal technique and disposal location. If different in-water disposal sites are proposed, a new WQC pre-filing meeting request, followed by a new WQC request (after requisite 30-days) is required.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.52-040 RCW, Chapter 90.54.020(2)(b) RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, Chapter 173-201A-240(5)(b) WAC, and Chapter 173-204-400(2), and WAC 173-225-010.
3. All unsuitable material will be trans loaded at a permitted facility and disposed of at a permitted upland disposal site.
- Justification - Use of a permitted trans loading facility ensures that appropriate BMPs, including appropriate containment and spill plans, are implemented. Additionally, use of a permitted disposal location ensures appropriate BMPs will be implemented to prevent contaminants from migrating into groundwater or surface waters.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.52-040 RCW, Chapter 90.54.020(2) (b) RCW, Chapter 173-200 WAC, Chapter 173-201A WAC, Chapter 173-201A-240(5)(b) WAC, and Chapter 173-204-400(2), and WAC 173-225-010.
4. Dredging operations shall be conducted in a manner that minimizes the disturbance and siltation of adjacent waters and prevents the accidental discharge of petroleum products, chemicals or other toxic or deleterious substances into state waters.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.



5. Dredged material shall not be temporarily or permanently stockpiled below the OHWM.
  - Justification - Stockpiles below the OHWM can discharge excess sediment to waters of the state and degrade water quality. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
6. All debris larger than two (2) feet in any dimension shall be removed from the dredged sediment prior to disposal at the open water site. Similar-sized debris floating in the dredging or disposal area shall be removed.
  - Justification - Ecology must be assured that the Project Proponent is managing and disposing of material to protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
7. A pre-dredge meeting is required to be convened prior to the start of dredging. A **Dredging and Disposal Work plan** (work plan) shall be submitted to Ecology per Condition A2 two weeks prior to the pre-dredge meeting. The Dredging and Disposal work plan (work plan) shall include the following:
  - a. General information including schedule, primary contact, and hours of operation.
  - b. Dredged quantities and disposal location, including any upland locations.
  - c. Dredging procedures and sequence.
  - d. Equipment list.
  - e. A description of the BMPs to be used for dredging, dewatering, trans loading, and disposal.
    - Justification - Ecology needs to meet with the Project Proponent and contractor to go over the work plan prior start of work to ensure that the plan reflects the project that has been authorized by this WQC Order. This condition is intended to assure the Project Proponent remains in full compliance with state water quality requirements for the duration of the project.

- Citation - Chapter 70A.200 RCW, Chapter 77.55 RCW, RCW 79.02.300, Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.52-040 RCW, RCW 90.54.020(2)(b), Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-240(5)(b), WAC 173-201A-300, WAC 173-201A-330, WAC 173-204-400(2), WAC 173-225-010, and Chapter 220-660 WAC.
8. All dredging and disposal shall have a valid suitability determination prior to in-water work. This area ranks low in potential for contamination and the recency determination extends through August 2027. Contact the DMMO for a possible extension on this suitability determination.
- Justification - The DMMP process confirms that material is suitable for in-water disposal and that the project meets state anti-degradation regulations.
  - Citation - Chapter 173-201A WAC, Chapter 173-201A-230 WAC, WAC 173-201A-240(1), WAC 173-201A-240(2), Chapter 173-204 WAC, WAC 173-204-110-120, WAC 173-204-400(2), WAC 173-204-410(7), WAC 173-204-350(d), and Chapter 173-225 WAC.
9. Only approximately 330,000 cubic yards (cy) of dredged material is allowed each maintenance dredge. Note: If additional material needs to dredge and dispose of, a new WQC pre-filing meeting request, followed by a new WQC request (after requisite 30-days) is required.
- a. Approximately 67,000 cy for Bay Center Entrance Channel and Mooring Basin Access Lane.
  - b. Approximately 55,000 cy for Bay Center Palix River Access Lane.
  - c. Approximately 53,000 cy for Tokeland Entrance Channel.
  - d. Approximately 155,000 cy for Nahcotta Entrance Channel and Mooring Basin Access Lane.
- Justification – Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-230, WAC 173-201A-240(1), WAC 173-201A-240(2), WAC, Chapter 173-204 WAC, WAC 173-204-110-120, WAC 173-204-400(2), WAC 173-204-410(7), WAC 173-204-350(d), and Chapter 173-225 WAC.

## **G. Emergency/Contingency Measures**

1. The Project Proponent shall develop and implement a spill prevention and containment plan for all aspects of this project.

- Justification - Ecology must ensure that the Project Proponent has a plan to prevent pollution from entering waterways. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, Chapter 90.56.280 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, WAC 173-225-010, and WAC 173-303-145.
2. The Project Proponent shall have adequate and appropriate spill response and cleanup materials available on site to respond to any release of petroleum products or any other material into waters of the state.
- Justification - Ecology must have assurance that the Project Proponent has the material readily available in WQC Order to address any spills that might occur to protect waters of the state. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, RCW 90.56.280, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, WAC 173-225-010, and WAC 173-303-145.
3. Fuel hoses, oil drums, oil or fuel transfer valves and fittings, etc., shall be checked regularly for drips or leaks, and shall be maintained and stored properly to prevent spills into state waters.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, RCW 90.56.280, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, WAC 173-225-010, and WAC 173-303-145.
4. Work causing distressed or dying fish and discharges of oil, fuel, or chemicals into state waters or onto land with a potential for entry into state waters is is prohibited. If such work, conditions, or discharges occur, the Project Proponent shall notify Ecology's Federal Permit Manager, per condition A2, and immediately take the following actions:
- a. Cease operations at the location of the non-compliance.
  - b. Assess the cause of the water quality problem and take appropriate measures to correct the problem and prevent further environmental damage.

- c. In the event of a discharge of oil, fuel, or chemicals into state waters, or onto land with a potential for entry into state waters, containment and cleanup efforts shall begin immediately and be completed as soon as possible, taking precedence over normal work. Cleanup shall include proper disposal of any spilled material and used cleanup materials.
- d. Immediately notify Ecology's Regional Spill Response Office and the Washington State Department of Fish and 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.
- e. Immediately notify the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802, for actual spills to water only.
  - Justification - 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. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, RCW 90.56.280, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, WAC 173-225-010, and WAC 173-303-145.
5. Notify Ecology's Regional Spill Response Office immediately if chemical containers (e.g. drums) are discovered on-site or any conditions present indicating disposal or burial of chemicals on-site that may impact surface water or ground water.
  - Justification - Oil and hazardous materials spills cause environmental damage. The sooner a spill is reported, the quicker it can be addressed, resulting in less harm. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, RCW 90.56.280, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, WAC 173-225-010, and WAC 173-303-145.

## Your right to appeal

You have a right to appeal this WQC 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).

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

- File your notice of appeal and a copy of this WQC Order 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 WQC Order 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://eluhwa.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)

## Americans with Disabilities Act Information

### Accommodation Requests

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-6831 or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

## Contact Information

Please direct all questions about this WQC Order to:

Brook Swensen  
Department of Ecology  
564-999-1749  
[Brook.swensen@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Brook.swensen@ecy.wa.gov)

## More Information

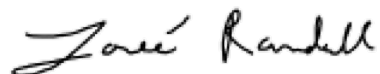
- **Pollution Control Hearings Board Website**  
<https://elaho.wa.gov>
- **Chapter 43.21B RCW - Environmental and Land Use Hearings Office – Pollution Control Hearings Board**  
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=43.21B>
- **Chapter 371-08 WAC – Practice and Procedure**  
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=371-08>
- **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

Dated this 27th day of August 2024 at the Department of Ecology, Lacey, Washington.



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

**Attachment A**

**Statement of Understanding  
Water Quality Certification Conditions**

Willapa Bay Navigation Channel Maintenance Dredging and Open-water Disposal

Water Quality Certification WQC Order No. 23190

As the Project Proponent for Disposal of Willapa Bay Navigation Channel Maintenance Dredging and Open-water Disposal project, I have read and understand the conditions of Washington State Department of Ecology WQC Order No. 23190, and any permits, plans, documents, and approvals referenced in the WQC Order. I have and will continue to ensure that all project engineers, contractors, and other workers at the project site with authority to direct work have read and understand the conditions of this WQC Order and any permits, plans, documents, and approvals referenced in the WQC Order.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Company