



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Northwest Region Office
PO Box 330316, Shoreline, WA 98133-9716 • 206-594-0000

June 27, 2025

Morgan Shellfish LLC
Attn: Terry Morgan
504 Fairway Lane
St. John, WA 99171

Re: Water Quality Certification Order No. **23801** (Corps No. **NWS-2017-651**), Morgan
Tideland, Skagit County, Washington

Dear Terry Morgan:

On 7/2/2025, Morgan Shellfish LLC (Terry Morgan) submitted a request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) under the federal Clean Water Act for the Morgan Tideland, Skagit 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 Austin Schmalz at (425) 301-6989. The enclosed WQC Order may be appealed by following the procedures described within.

Sincerely,

Joe Burcar, Section Manager
Northwest Region Office
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

Enclosure (1)

By certified mail: 9171 9690 0935 0233 1816 03

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Sent via e-mail: tjmorgan5@gmail.com

E-cc: Jonathan Smith, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Erin Hanlon Brown, Ecology

Austin Schmalz, Ecology

ecyrefedpermits@ecy.wa.gov

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

Morgan Shellfish LLC
Attn: Terry Morgan
504 Fairway Lane
St. John, WA 99171

WQC Order No.	23801
Corps Reference No.	NWS-2017-651
Site Location	Morgan Tideland located within Samish Bay, Bow, Skagit County, Washington.

Morgan Shellfish LLC (Terry Morgan) submitted a request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) under the federal Clean Water Act for the Morgan Tideland, Skagit County, Washington. The required processing dates are listed below:

- On 11/6/2023, the Morgan Shellfish LLC (Terry Morgan) submitted a pre-filing meeting request.
- On 7/2/2024, Ecology received a request for Clean Water Section 401 Water Quality Certification.
- On 10/24/2024, Morgan Shellfish LLC (Terry Morgan) submitted additional information, and the Department of Ecology (Ecology) considered the Request valid on this date.
- On 9/3/2024, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) sent an email notification to Ecology that they are reviewing the project for authorization under a Section 10 Letter of Permission.
- Ecology's "Reasonable Period of Time" for this project has been established as 7/2/2025.
- On 3/14/2025, Ecology issued a public notice for the project.

This project proposes to commercially cultivate Manila clams and oysters on approximately 12 tidal acres of Samish Bay on tax parcel P48468. Oysters would be cultivated in bags both suspended on lines and resting on-bottom attached to lines anchored in the substrate with rebar. Manila clams would be cultivated on-bottom and may be covered by anti-predator netting. On-bottom cultivation areas may be compacted before seeding with a coil compactor. Access would be by boat.

The project site is located at Samish Bay tideland, Skagit County, Washington, Section 29, Township 36 N., Range 03 E., within Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 3 – Low Skagit - Samish.

With this WQC Order, Ecology is granting with conditions Morgan Shellfish LLC (Terry Morgan)'s request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the Morgan Tideland project, provided that the activity is conducted in accordance with the Section 401 Water Quality Certification request and attachments Ecology received on 7/2/2024, and the following supporting documentation:

1. E-mail letter to Ecology dated 10/27/2024, regarding commitment to the 2016 NMFS Biological Opinion
2. On 6/23/2025, Ecology received a Water Quality Monitoring Plan dated 6/10/2025

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, Morgan Shellfish LLC (Terry Morgan) 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 Morgan Shellfish LLC (Terry Morgan) 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 Morgan Shellfish LLC (Terry Morgan) from liability for contamination and any subsequent cleanup of surface waters, ground waters, or sediments resulting from project construction or operations.

Special Conditions:

1. This Certification is not effective until the U.S. Corps of Engineers (Corps) Seattle District issues a Department of the Army (DA) permit for this project. WQC Order No. **23801** will expire on December 31st, 2036.
 - Justification – Certifications are required for any license or permit that authorizes an activity that may result in a discharge or fill material into waters. This WQC Order is not valid until the Federal agency issues a permit. Additionally, 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. Morgan Shellfish LLC (Terry Morgan) shall send a copy of the final Federal permit via e-mail to fednotification@ecy.wa.gov and cc to Austin.Schmalz@ecy.wa.gov prior to the starting of any work authorized by this WQC Order. If the Federal Agency determines the proposed project does not require a Federal permit, the Morgan Shellfish LLC (Terry Morgan) shall immediately inform Ecology.
 - Justification - This condition is needed to ensure that the federal permit has been issued and all the conditions of the WQC Order have been included into the federal permit.
 - Citation - 40 CFR 121.10, 40 CFR 121.11, and Chapter 90.48 RCW.
3. To transfer this WQC Order to a new owner or operator Morgan Shellfish LLC (Terry Morgan) shall:
 - a. Complete a Request for Transfer of Order with a specific transfer date of the WQC Order's obligations, coverage, and liability and submit it to Ecology at fednotification@ecy.wa.gov and cc to Austin.Schmalz@ecy.wa.gov. Link to form: <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/ECY070695.html>;
 - b. Provide a copy of this WQC Order to the new owner or operator; and
 - c. The transfer is not considered valid until the Morgan Shellfish LLC (Terry Morgan) receives written notification from Ecology that the transfer has been approved.
 - Justification – Ecology has independent state authority to ensure protection of state water quality. Ecology needs to ensure that anyone conducting work at the project, including any new owners or operators, 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 – 40 CFR 121.5, Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
4. A coil compactor is approved for use as approved by the Corps of Engineers for this project.
 - 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.
5. 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. If such work, conditions, or discharges occur, immediately notify 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 at 1-800-258-5990, for spills to water only. This condition is necessary to prevent oil and other 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.
- 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.

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 with conditions to the Morgan Shellfish LLC (Terry Morgan) for the Morgan Tideland project.

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).

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 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 Order on the Department of Ecology by 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.

Address and Location Information

Filing with the PCHB

For the most current information regarding filing with the PCHB, visit: <https://eluh0.wa.gov/> or call: 360-664-9160.

Service on Ecology

Street Address:

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

Mailing Address:

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

E-Mail Address:

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:

Austin Schmalz

Department of Ecology

(425) 301-6989

Austin.Schmalz@ecy.wa.gov

More Information

- **Pollution Control Hearings Board Website**
<https://eluh0.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>

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Signature

Dated this 27 day of June 2025 at the Department of Ecology, Shoreline, Washington.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Burcar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Joe Burcar, Section Manager

Northwest Region Office

Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program