



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY**

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

July 23, 2025

Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians  
ATTN: Franchesca Perez  
3322 2326<sup>th</sup> Street Northeast  
Arlington, WA 98223

Re: Coastal Zone Management Federal Consistency Decision for Triangle Cove Shellfish Aquaculture (Corps No. NWS-2017-175), Port Susan Bay, Triangle Cove, and Whidbey Basin, Camano Island, Island, Washington

Dear Franchesca Perez:

On March 19, 2024, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) received a Certification of Consistency with the Washington State Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP) for the above project. Ecology issued a 21-day public notice on May 21, 2025. Pursuant to Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 as amended, Ecology concurs with Stillaguamish Tribe of Indian's determination that the proposed work is consistent with Washington's CZMP.

On August 21, 2024, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians and Ecology agreed to stay the CZM review period until March 19, 2025, in order for the Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians to provide a shoreline permit or exemption and Section 401 Water Quality Certification. A second stay was agreed to on February 24, 2025, extending the review period until September 19, 2025, in order for the Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians to provide a shoreline permit and Section 401 Water Quality Certification.

This project proposes to continue cultivation and harvest of Pacific, Kumamoto and Olympia oysters, and Manila clams for ceremonial and subsistence purposes; the subsistence harvest of naturally occurring varnish and eastern softshell clams, and mussels; and the restoration of Olympia oysters. Specifically, it includes the following elements:

- On-bottom bag and/or basket culture: oyster seed is purchased from outside sources approved by Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. Approximately one-half to three-quarters of an inch single seed is placed in nylon grow bags that are 18 inches wide by 30 inches long by 3 inches deep. Grow bags are tagged with ownership information and attached to leaded rope and then secured to the substrate by tying the rope to U-

shaped rebar driven flush with the surface of the substrate. Grow bags covering about one quarter acre are moved around the growing area according to water temperatures, dissolved oxygen, and sediment movement. Because winter storms accelerate sediment movement across the tidelands, occasionally entire lines of bags need to be moved to different, more stable sections of substrate.

- Oyster bottom culture: once oysters reach about two inches or more in length, they are removed from the bags and spread on the tidelands to continue growing, and later hand harvested.
- Suspended or stacked aquaculture (oyster) baskets or bags will be deployed seasonally (May through October) in a cooler pool at the east end of the cove. If suspended, two large aquaculture buoys would be secured with a helical anchor and a line strung between them. Stacks of bags or baskets would be hung from the line between. If anchored, baskets will be stacked and secured with an aluminum pole that runs through the basket center, driven into the substrate. Each basket stack footprint is one half meter square.
- Manila clam cultivation: the Tribe will enhance Manila clams by spreading seed purchased from approved producers. Up to one inch of gravel per year may be added to support clam habitat. To reduce avian predation, in trial areas the Tribe will invert three-inch-tall aquaculture baskets over seeded clams. These baskets are about the same height and square area as oyster bags. The basket mesh size is about one inch and permits shore crab and small fish movement in and out. The Tribe may also use one-eighth inch mesh predator netting laid out in roughly four-to-eight-foot lengths and secured at either end with U-shaped pieces of rebar and buried at the edges. The netting will be flush with the surface of the tideland.
- Olympia oyster restoration trials: bags of seeded Olympia oyster cultch will be placed. After one season bags will be opened and the shell will be distributed. Mature oysters and empty oyster shell from on-site will be moved to the vicinity of the Olympia oyster cultch. Up to one inch of washed oyster shell may be placed annually.

The project would occur within Triangle Cove in Port Susan Bay, Camano Island, Island County, Washington.

If you have any questions regarding Ecology's decision, please contact Austin Schmalz at [Austin.Schmalz@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Austin.Schmalz@ecy.wa.gov).

## 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 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://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)

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Burcar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joe" being more prominent than the last name "Burcar".

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

Sent via e-mail: [fperez@stillaguamish.com](mailto:fperez@stillaguamish.com)

E-cc: Brody Garner, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Austin Schmalz, Ecology  
Erin Hanlon Brown, Ecology  
[fedconsistency@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:fedconsistency@ecy.wa.gov)