



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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March 12, 2021

Wiegardt and Sons, Inc.
Attn: Ken Wiegardt
PO Box 309
Ocean Park, WA. 98640

RE: Water Quality Certification Order No. 19738 for Corps Reference No. 202000508,
Wiegardt Willapa Bay Shellfish Farm, Pacific County, Washington

Dear Ken Wiegardt:

On June 17th, 2020, Wiegardt and Sons Inc. submitted a request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) under the federal Clean Water Act for the Wiegardt Willapa Bay Shellfish Farm located on tidelands within Willapa Bay, near Ocean Park, Pacific County, Washington

On behalf of the state of Washington, the Department of Ecology certifies that the work described in the Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Application (JARPA) and the public notice 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 conditions contained in the enclosed Order.

Please ensure that anyone doing work under this Order has read, is familiar with, and is able to follow all of the provisions within the attached Order.

If you have any questions about this decision, please contact Marco Pinchot by e-mail at marco.pinchot@ecy.wa.gov. The enclosed Order may be appealed by following the procedures described within the Order.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. McFarland", is written over a horizontal line.

Brenden McFarland, Section Manager
Environmental Review and Transportation Section
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

Enclosure

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e-cc: Jade Metzler, Corps of Engineers
Robert M. Smith
Laura Hendricks, Coalition to Protect Puget Sound Habitat
Amy van Saun, Center for Food Safety
Loree' Randall, Ecology
Marco Pinchot, Ecology
ECYREFEDPERMITS@ecy.wa.gov – Aquatics No. 138911

IN THE MATTER OF GRANTING A)	ORDER No. 19738
WATER QUALITY)	Corps Reference No. 202000508
CERTIFICATION TO)	Wiegardt Willapa Bay Shellfish Farm located on
Wiegardt and Sons, Inc)	tidelands within Willapa Bay near Ocean Park,
pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1341 (FWPCA)	Pacific County, Washington
§ 401), RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260)	
and Chapter 173-201A WAC)	

Wiegardt and Sons, Inc.
 Attn: Ken Wiegardt
 PO Box 309
 Ocean Park, WA. 98640

On June 17th, 2020, Wiegardt and Sons Inc. submitted a request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) under the federal Clean Water Act for the Wiegardt Willapa Bay Shellfish Farm, Pacific County, Washington. The Department of Ecology (Ecology) issued a public notice for the project on October 14th, 2020.

This project proposes to continue operation on 106 acres of bottom Manila clam culture, 156 acres of on bottom oyster culture, and 50 acres suspended oyster flip bag culture. Manila clams are produced through natural recruitment. Harvest occurs by hand at low tide. Harvest will occur every 2 to 4 years depending on clam density and growth. Clam beds are maintained by a light frosting of gravel that is washed twice by the supplier. Frosting will occur every 3 to 5 years.

On bottom oysters are produced through both natural recruitment and hatchery produced seed. For natural recruitment the bed will be lightly frosted with clean oyster shell that has been aged for a minimum of 90 days. Frosting will occur when there is oyster larvae present in the water column and mature oysters have been previously removed from the bed. Frosting typically happens in July/August. Frosting with oyster shell will occur every 3 to 5 years. Hatchery produced seed is planted after the mature oysters have been removed. Oysters are harvested every 2 to 5 years depending on oyster density and growth. All oyster harvest is done at low tide by hand.

Suspended oyster flip bags consist of longlines that are 120 feet long with anchor lines at either end and supporting posts every 6 feet. Each row is spaced 6 feet apart. One block consists of up to 25 rows. Blocks are spaced a minimum of 50 feet from each other. The anchor lines consist of to ½” nylon ropes with a 4”x4”x1/4” piece of plastic sunk 2 feet into the ground. The anchor lines are used to maintain line tension. The supporting posts are made of schedule 80, 1 ¼” PVC. Lines between the posts are ¼” Samson Amsteel. Longlines can be 1 foot to 4 feet in elevation above the ground. Longlines hold bags with floats. The bags are made from ¼” and 3/8” VEXAR mesh and are approximately 2 feet by 3 feet. Bags are attached to the line using plastic zip-ties. Bags attached to the longlines have a small crab float attached to them opposite of the attachment to the long line. Floats are attached to the bag using thin polypropylene line and plastic clips. Monthly visits along with visits after high wind events are made to check condition of oysters

and gear. Harvest is done by removing the bags from the longlines and sorting/washing/packing the oysters at an upland location.

The project site is located on tidelands within Willapa Bay on parcel numbers 79004000077, 79004000097, 79004003004, 79004003005, 79004000051, 79004003073, 79004000006, 79004003075, 79004003076, 79004000091, 79004000074, 79004001075, 79004000004, and 11110355325 adjacent to 21420 Sandridge Road. Ocean Park, WA 98640, Pacific County, Washington; Section 3, 10, Township 11N, Range 11W; WRIA 24, Willapa Watershed.

With this Order, Ecology is granting Wiegardt and Sons Inc.'s request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the Wiegardt Willapa Bay Shellfish Farms project, provided that the activity is conducted in accordance with the Section 401 Water Quality Certification request and attachments Ecology received on June 17th, 2020, and the following supporting documentation:

1. E-mail letter to Ecology dated February 12th, 2021, regarding the project's compliance with the conservation measures associated with the "Programmatic Biological Opinions for Shellfish Activities in Washington State Inland Marine Waters" (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Reference Number 01EWF00-2016-F-0121, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Reference Number WCR-2014-1502). This email also includes a description of Wiegardt and Sons Inc.'s water quality monitoring plan.

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, Wiegardt and Sons Inc. 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 Wiegardt and Sons Inc. 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 the Applicant from liability for contamination and any subsequent cleanup of surface waters, ground waters, or sediments resulting from project construction or operations.

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 actual spills to water only.

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 to the Wiegardt and Sons Inc., Wiegardt Willapa Bay Shellfish Farms project.

This Certification is not effective until the U.S. Corps of Engineers (Corps) Seattle District issues an individual Department of the Army (DA) permit for this project. Order No. **19738** will remain valid for the duration of the associated permit. Wiegardt and Sons Inc. should send a copy of the final DA permit to fednotification@ecy.wa.gov within two weeks of receiving it.

YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL

You have a right to appeal this Order to the Pollution Control Hearing Board (PCHB) within 30 days of the date of receipt of this Order. 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 both of the following within 30 days of the date of receipt of this Order:

- File your appeal and a copy of this Order with the PCHB (see addresses below). Filing means actual receipt by the PCHB during regular business hours.
- Serve a copy of your appeal and this Order on Ecology in paper form by mail or in person. (See addresses below.) E-mail is not accepted.

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

ADDRESS AND LOCATION INFORMATION

Street Addresses	Mailing Addresses
Department of Ecology Attn: Appeals Processing Desk 300 Desmond Drive SE Lacey, WA 98503	Department of Ecology Attn: Appeals Processing Desk PO Box 47608 Olympia, WA 98504-7608
Pollution Control Hearings Board 1111 Israel Road SW, Suite 301 Tumwater, WA 98501	Pollution Control Hearings Board PO Box 40903 Olympia, WA 98504-0903

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please direct all questions about this Order to:

Marco Pinchot
Department of Ecology
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503
marco.pinchot@ecy.wa.gov

MORE INFORMATION

- **Pollution Control Hearings Board Website**
<http://www.eluho.wa.gov/Board/PCHB>
- **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



Brenden McFarland, Section Manager
Environmental Review and Transportation Section
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program
Department of Ecology

March 12, 2021
Date