

Ron Buckholt

From: Bruce Justinen <bruce@seasoftscuba.com>
Sent: Monday, December 5, 2022 4:55 PM
To: Ron Buckholt
Subject: Development Project #: 2022103702 Taylor Shellfish Application to Lease Geoduck Aquaculture Lands on Henderson Inlet

Mr. Buckholt:

I am confused, I see Washington State going out of its way, actually being ultra sensitive to the environment of this wonderful state of clean waters, free roaming wildlife, abundant wildlife and healthy seas.... Oh, scratch that last one. Puget Sound is not a healthy body of water. I manufacture drysuits and dive equipment for geoduck divers, cucumber harvesters, and other commercial divers. I have been diving in Puget Sound since 1973. I remember when there were abalone and other now gone species. I remember when there was a healthy crab fishery in the South Sound, it is gone now. I remember when you could go to almost any beach in Puget Sound and find Sand Dollars, you rarely find them now. I cannot even describe the difference between diving in the 70s and now. It is depressing. But we can do better.

Please reconsider Application # 2022103702, right in the middle of the proposed leased property to Taylor Shellfish is a Sand Dollar birthing area of approximately 1 to 2 acres of sand and pebbles. This area will be destroyed, possibly when the farm is put in but will absolutely be annihilated when the harvest takes place. To a lesser degree this is a crabbery also with thousands of small crabs in and among the rocks here and again they will be destroyed when the geoduck harvest takes place.

I have enjoyed taking my kids, school children and my grandchildren to this special, magical birthing area where the sand dollars are lined up like decks of cards in the sand waiting their turn to be set free. Why should Washingtonians be denied this rare and endangered treat? This sand dollar refuge should be protected.

Isn't it time to save instead of destroy? Isn't it time SOMEONE spoke up for the kids and grandkids instead of the corporations. I have nothing against jobs and making money, I own my own company selling to this industry but there is a time where principle rises above revenue.

Please consider all the variables here, not just one. Thank you for listening.

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