

From: hwbranch@aol.com
To: [Sonja Cady](#)
Subject: Project #: 2022103702 Taylor Shellfish/Manzanita Geoduck SSDP
Date: Monday, January 1, 2024 5:32:13 PM

Re: Project #: 2022103702 Taylor Shellfish/Manzanita Geoduck SSDP

I have numerous concerns with geoduck aquaculture in this location the main one being that forage fish use these beaches. Forage fish numbers are dramatically down from historical abundance. Any place that's still available for them should be protected. This question is very important to me.

I have been sailing for 60 years. I am a USCG 100 ton licensed captain and have delivered sailboats throughout the North Pacific and crewed on and skippered fishing boats including those in the California rockfish and albacore tuna fisheries. In 1995 I skippered a boat in the sub-tidal geoduck fishery. I've skippered a variety of education and research vessels including three seasons for NOAA out of Neah Bay. Here's a movie about that:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ukOtTRlrr_0

I have an undergraduate Bachelor of Science degree from San Francisco State University and a Masters Degree in Environmental Studies from The Evergreen State College and wrote a thesis on ecologically based fishery management available here:

<https://archives.evergreen.edu/masterstheses/Accession86-10MES/Accession86-10E-Theses.htm>

The question pertains to the interactions of species within and between ecosystems. All places in Puget Sound are connected. Years ago spawning events would have brought thousands of sand lance and surf smelt to Budd Inlet's upper beaches. Herring would have inundated sea grass beds. Once vast in number, these vital species are now locally extinct. We've forgotten they ever existed. We talk in terms like stewardship, sustainability, mitigation, no-net-loss, ... the jargon of the shifting baseline.

"The recognition and concern regarding shifting baselines come from an understanding that many of the world's resources, including those from the global oceans, are severely depleted because of human activity (Pauly, 1995, 2019), and historical baselines provide more favourable conditions with which to establish management and conservation goals."

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10745-023-00398-w>

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