

From: [Jan Odano](#)
To: [Sonja Cady](#)
Subject: Project #: 2022103702 Taylor Shellfish/Manzanita Geoduck SSDP
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 8:40:49 AM

TO: Sonja Cady

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

DATE: 8 January 2024

Dear Ms Cady:

We are writing to express our concern and opposition with Taylor Shellfish proposal (2022103702 Taylor Shellfish/Manzanita Geoduck SSDP) to commercially cultivate geoduck clams on Henderson Bay between tidal elevations +1.0 and -4.5 feet.

First and foremost, this project will all but preclude our access to and recreational activities on the beach. We walk the beach almost every day as do many of our neighbors on Johnson Point. This beach is where our granddaughter, who is now two years old, will grow up and should be able to learn to love and appreciate all that Puget Sound has to offer. Without access to the water and the sandy portions of the beach, the lessons from Puget Sound will not be attainable. She will not be able to turn rocks over to search for crabs, see sand dollars living in the sand, watch nudibranchs float by, or watch as the starfish try to come back after being decimated the last ten years. We will, however, have access to acres of plastic geoduck tubes.

We consider ourselves extremely fortunate to be able to live on Puget Sound. We gratefully accept the responsibility to pay a premium in taxes for this privilege. For us, the primary reason to live where we do is not the house itself but access to the water, which as stated, we use with frequency. Placing shellfish growing areas in front of community residents, who are not only concerned for the environment but also enjoy the beaches and the water significantly, impacts the underlying reasons for being here.

Low tide is a special time to enjoy the beach and all that lives there. Hundreds of PVC pipes and shellfish nets would make it impossible to walk to the water to launch and use our kayaks. During the late spring and summer, we often swim (yes, we do!) and sit on the beach to enjoy the beautiful water and spectacular place where we live. Swimming, as we do on most warm summer days, at low median tide would no longer be an option. Without a beach to walk on, these activities will not be possible or become very difficult and possibly dangerous. Simply put, this project will severely and deleteriously impact the serenity and beauty of the beaches along Henderson Bay.

Also, as you must be aware, marine debris, including many types of plastics, derelict fishing gear, Styrofoam, and other unwanted durable materials represents one of the most widespread pollution problems in our oceans and waterways. We walk Henderson Bay beaches almost every day. And, almost every day we find plastic shellfish nets, bags, Styrofoam floats from shellfish beds, and zip ties. These items have obviously escaped from shoreside aquaculture gear storage areas or shellfish beds that are commercially cultivated because of the sheer number of items found on the beach. We have hauled up the plastic shellfish bags, nets, and zip ties that have washed up along Henderson Bay beaches to fill our trash can innumerable times. We question that Taylor Shellfish will ensure that more plastic debris will not be littering the state's beaches. If Taylor Shellfish has provided in their proposal the similar methods for cleanup as those that are currently used to pick up and haul off their marine debris, then the present day approach is acutely lacking. As it stands, it will have to be assumed that cleaning up much if not all of Taylor Shellfish marine debris will be left to local residents.

With regard to cleanup, will there, for example, be an accounting of how many PVC tubes and shellfish nets bags used for this operation, how many are recovered for each project, and their proper disposal? How will the Corps, Department of Ecology, Thurston County, and Department of Natural Resources ensure that plastic litter will be addressed? Further, what enforcement actions will be taken for loss of aquaculture gear and their marine debris? And what assurances can be provided regarding the loss of nets, zip ties, or other plastic and metal fasteners used to hold the materials in place?

Furthermore, we know that these plastics, whether being used for oyster bags or geoducks, or when becoming marine debris, degrades into microplastics. Results from scientific studies clearly indicate that these microplastics are being found within our ecosystems, including wildlife such as Quaternary consumers. In addition, further research is starting to elucidate the harmful effects of plastic and microplastic that are now ubiquitous in our ecosystem. These concerns extend to the wildlife residing in Henderson Bay and on the beach.

We hope that you take into consideration our concerns and those of others as you determine whether or not to approve the Taylor Shellfish geoduck proposal.

Sincerely,
Jan Odano
Koenraad Mariën

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