

Janell McCleary
9838 Johnson Point Rd NE
Olympia, WA 98516

January 7, 2024

Thurston County Hearing Examiner

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

Dear Ms. Cady,

I am writing to request that the application for the Taylor Shellfish/Manzanita Geoduck Aquaculture proposal for the location at Tax Parcel No. 93000100000 be disapproved.

The establishment of a geoduck farm on the Tax Parcel mentioned above does not complying with the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goal as established by the United Nations. The goal for the planet reads as follows:

Planet

We are determined to protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations.

(<https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>)

The establishment of a geoduck farm would result in degradation of the shoreline and ecosystem. A study done by Professor Jennifer Ruesink of the Department of Biology, University of Washington on the Resilience of Soft - Sediment Communities after Geoduck Harvest in Samish Bay, Washington, showed the following:

Results

Results show evidence that geoduck harvest decreases sediment elevation within the farm, with recovery on the order of one year. Harvest activity and the biofouling of predator-exclusion nets led to the elimination eelgrass from the geoduck farm. Installation of PVC tubes to protect young geoducks increased local scour, reduced sediment elevation, and increased the rate of mortality for eelgrass seedlings. In all, results suggest that geoduck aquaculture decreases organic content of sediment within the farm; sediment loss was greater around the PVC tubes, possibly suggesting increased scouring.

(<https://wsg.washington.edu/research/resilience-of-soft-sediment-communities-after-geoduck-harvest-in-samish-bay-washington/>)

The presence of a geoduck farm would inhibit or even prevent the growth of at least one plant, eelgrass, that is vital to our planet since it mitigates climate change and provides vital marine habitat. A geoduck farm established now would not complying with the timeline of Agenda 2030, since the geoduck may very possibly not even be ready to harvest until 2030 or beyond.

Harvest

The length of time to harvest may range between 4 and 7 years depending on planting density, substrate quality, tidal elevation, and market conditions.

(<https://pcsga.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/GEODUCK-FARMING-FACT-SHEET.pdf>)

Please protect our environment by rejecting the establishment of the above proposed geoduck farm.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Janell McCleary