



Thurston County Government

# Shoreline Master Program

Land-use & Zoning Regulations for County Shorelines

Remaining Policy Items: Development Standards for Mussel Rafts & Net Pens

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# Net Pen/Mussel Raft Aquaculture Standards



- Draft SMP contains specific standards for net pens and mussel rafts
- County does not have any net pen operations, has some mussel rafts – permit conditions may apply to future operations
- Intent of update is to base regulations on local circumstances
- **Policy question for Planning Commission:** Include additional standards for mussel rafts based on previously permitted operations? Modify or remove specific net pen standards?



# Net Pen/Mussel Raft Aquaculture Standards



- Staff reviewed past permit conditions to see what was approved
- All general aquaculture development standards would apply to net pens and mussel rafts (e.g. rules about siting, minimizing visual impacts, securing gear, no net loss)
- If included in draft, some standards may be more general
  - Others may be better suited to specific situations



# Net Pen/Mussel Raft Aquaculture Standards



- Example general standards for mussel rafts
  - Arrange raft arrays parallel to tidal currents to minimize distance over which water currents are affected
  - Employ BMPs to maintain water quality (such as for siting, configuration, pen set-up and cleaning, harvest timing and techniques)
  - Minimize disturbance of marine mammals during maintenance and harvest
  - Store plastic disks on land, not on water craft or rafts. Install nets to catch disks that fall off.
  - Do not store nets on beach. Take measures to prevent marine mammals from using rafts as rookeries. Keep rafts clean, especially of odor causing substances.







# Net Pen/Mussel Raft Standards

- Example case-specific standards for mussel rafts
  - Separate rafts and access via workboat. Relocate rafts within site every few years.
  - Keep rafts neat and orderly.
    - Provide contact information to any property owners who request it to allow for complaints to be received.
    - Respond promptly to such complaints and take measures to comply with this provision.
    - If any person believes applicant is not complying, they may request the County or DOE take action.
  - Submit a monitoring plan for any issues of concern that are identified during application review process.





# Net Pen/Mussel Raft Standards

- Policy questions for Planning Commission: Include additional standards for mussel rafts based on previously permitted operations? Modify or remove specific net pen standards?

