



**DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE (DS)  
AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)**

**Environmental Application Numbers:** 823304 and 778793    **Project ID Number:** 460217

**Family Application Numbers:** 778791, 778792, 778794

**Parcel Numbers:** 0122133078, 0122231065, 0122231067, 0122231071

**Proposal:**     Burley Lagoon Geoduck Farm (Taylor Shellfish Farms)  
                      Shoreline Substantial Development Permit / Shoreline Conditional Use Permit  
                      Case No. SD/CP15-14

**Description of proposal:** Taylor Shellfish Farms is proposing to convert existing shellfish beds from the cultivation (planting, growing, and harvesting) of Pacific oysters, Manila clams, and scatter-planted geoduck clams to geoduck clams planted in flexible mesh plastic and/or rigid PVC tubes. In addition, predator exclusion nets may be utilized. The area involves 25.5 acres of private tidelands located in the intertidal zone between tidal elevations -4.5 to +2 as measured at mean lower low water (MLLW). The tidelands are accessed by boat from an existing facility north of the Purdy Bridge.

**Location of proposal:** Burley Lagoon (south half of lagoon), north of Henderson Bay (north of SR302, Purdy Sandspit Park, and Purdy Bridge) within the Urban, Rural-Residential, and Natural Shoreline Environments within the Key Peninsula and/or Gig Harbor Peninsula Community Plan areas, within Sections 13 and 23, T22N, R1E within Pierce County Council District #7.

**Proponent:** Taylor Shellfish Farms, Attn: Diane Cooper

**Lead agency:** Pierce County Planning and Land Services Department

**EIS to be Prepared:** Pierce County (lead agency) and Taylor Shellfish Farms (proponent) have agreed that an environmental impact statement (EIS) will be prepared. An EIS will be prepared under the direction of Pierce County.

1. The lead agency has preliminarily identified the following areas for discussion in the EIS:
  - Sediments
  - Aquatic vegetation
  - Water quality
  - Fish and wildlife
  - Noise
  - Recreation
  - Aesthetics

Cumulative impacts and marine debris will also be discussed in the context of these elements of the environment, as appropriate.

2. The lead agency has preliminarily identified the following alternatives for discussion in the EIS:

- Alternative 1 (Current Proposal): Geoduck aquaculture on 25.5 acres – convert existing shellfish beds from the cultivation (planting, growing, and harvesting) of Pacific oysters, Manila clams, and scatter-planted geoduck clams to geoduck clams planted in flexible mesh plastic and/or rigid PVC tubes. In addition, predator exclusion nets may be utilized.
- Alternative 2: Geoduck aquaculture rotation in 17 acres – up to 17 acres of the 25.5 acre culture area would be used (at any one time) for geoduck clams planted in flexible mesh plastic and/or rigid PVC tubes. In addition, predator exclusion nets may be utilized. The remaining 8.5 acres would remain in Manila clam, oyster cultivation, and scatter-planted geoduck clams.
- Alternative 3: No action alternative. No geoduck farm would be installed. Continue existing multi-species aquaculture.

**Scoping.** Neighbors, the public, organizations, agencies, and Tribes are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. You may also comment on the alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required.

**Request for Comments:** Comments on the scope of the EIS are due on or before November 8, 2016. Comments are intended to be directed to this proposal, and not aquaculture in general. If providing email/written comments, reference the proposal name, application numbers, and include your full mailing (non-email) address. Comments can be provided as follows:

- By email to Ty Booth at [tbooth@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:tbooth@co.pierce.wa.us)
- In writing to Ty Booth, Pierce County Planning and Land Services Department, 2401 S. 35<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 175, Tacoma, WA 98409-7490
- By phone at 888-998-3946. This is a message line where you can leave verbal comments which are recorded and later transcribed to written form. Comments are only transcribed on this line and no other phone lines.
- In person at the combined open house/public meeting.

**Combined Open House/Public Meeting:** To provide an opportunity to learn about the Burley Lagoon Geoduck Farm EIS and comment in person, Pierce County has scheduled a combined open house and public meeting at the Peninsula High School Auditorium. The open house will be followed by the public meeting. The public meeting will be moderated by a third party, neutral facilitator.

Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2016

Time: Open house will start at 6 p.m.  
Public hearing will start at 6:45 p.m.

Location: Peninsula High School Auditorium  
14105 Purdy Drive NW  
Gig Harbor, WA 98332

1. The Open house will provide information on the proposal, environmental review and permitting process, and the means available for the public to provide comments. The open house displays will be accessible throughout the public meeting. The open house will be staffed by representatives of Pierce County and Taylor Shellfish Farms. It will be an opportunity to ask project-related questions in an informal manner. There will not be an opportunity for the public/others to provide displays (slideshows, videos, photo boards, signs, etc.).
2. The public meeting will consist of the following:
  - A. Presentations by Pierce County and Taylor Shellfish Farms which will provide information on the environmental review and permitting process, and the proponent's proposal. There will be no question and answer (Q&A) period following these presentations.
  - B. For those who wish to provide verbal comment, the public comment session will extend for the final 1 ½ hours of the meeting. Each speaker will have one turn of up to three minutes to comment. Comments at this meeting will be audio recorded but not transcribed. Speakers will be encouraged to follow up their testimony by providing emailed/written comments or calling the phone line above (which will transcribe comments). Again, there will not be an opportunity for the public/others to provide slideshows, videos, photo boards, signs, etc. This is not a Q&A period -- questions will be noted but a response will not be provided. The meeting will end at the published time of 9:00 p.m.
3. Other comment mechanisms at the public meeting will consist of the following:
  - A. Providing handwritten comments on printed comment forms.
  - B. Providing written comments via email to the County, using provided laptops.

**Responsible Official:** Dennis Hanberg

**Position/Title:** Director

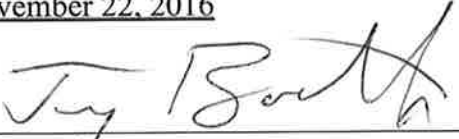
**Address:** 2401 South 35th Street, Suite 175, Tacoma, WA 98409-7490

**Staff Contact:** Ty Booth, Planner  
tbooth@co.pierce.wa.us / 253-798-3727

**Issue Date:** October 5, 2016

**Comment Deadline:** November 8, 2016

**Appeal Deadline:** November 22, 2016

  
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 for Dennis Hanberg, Responsible Official

**Important Notes:**

1. Pursuant to RCW 43.21C.075, Section 18D.10.080 of Title 18D, Pierce County Development Regulations - Environmental and Chapter 1.22 of Title 1, General Provisions, decisions of the Responsible Official may be appealed. Appeals are filed with appropriate fee and Notice of Appeal at the Planning and Land Services Department, located at the Development Center in the Public Services Building, 2401 South 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 2, Tacoma, WA 98409-7490. You should be prepared to make specific factual objections. The appeal fee is \$3,360.00
2. The issuance of this Determination of Significance does not constitute project approval. The intent of the EIS is to provide detailed information to assist decision makers in their review of the proposal. For example, the applicant must comply with all other applicable requirements of Pierce County, federal, and state agencies. Notably, at the conclusion of the EIS process, the proposal will require a public meeting before the Key Peninsula and/or Gig Harbor Peninsula Land Use Advisory Commission. In addition, the shoreline permits will require a public hearing before and decision by the Pierce County Hearing Examiner. The final County decision to approve/deny this proposal will be up to the Hearing Examiner.
3. More information regarding a Determination of Significance (DS), Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) is found at the Washington State Department of Ecology webpage or at the following link:  
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/sepa/e-review.html>
4. The Pierce County Planning and Land Services Department is transitioning from paper to electronic files. The file for this proposal (application materials, comments, documents, etc.) may be viewed on-line, anytime. The following are the links to the applications:

**Pierce County Online Permit Information:**

<http://palsonline.co.pierce.wa.us/palsonline/permitinfo?applPermitId=778791>



**Pierce County Online Permit Information:**

<http://palsonline.co.pierce.wa.us/palsonline/permitinfo?applPermitId=778792>



**Pierce County Online Permit Information:**

<http://palsonline.co.pierce.wa.us/palsonline/permitinfo?applPermitId=778793>



**Pierce County Online Permit Information:**

<http://palsonline.co.pierce.wa.us/palsonline/permitinfo?applPermitId=778794>



**Pierce County Online Permit Information:**

<http://palsonline.co.pierce.wa.us/palsonline/permitinfo?applPermitId=823304>



Alternatively, visit the website of the Pierce County Planning and Land Services Department at the following link and follow then follow these instructions:

<http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/index.aspx?NID=117>

1. Click on the heading "Online Permitting";
2. Click on the subheading "Search for existing applications";
3. Under terms of use click "Yes";
4. On the Application/Permit Lookup screen enter an application number (they are listed at the top of this document);
5. Once an application number is added (for example), you can see what the application is for, the review comments, documents, etc.;
6. To view the documents associated with that application (such as the application materials, reports, comment letters, etc.) click on the heading "Documents";
7. A list of documents will appear and you can click on each to view, print, save, etc.

A copy of this DS has been sent to the following:

- Surrounding property owners (300 feet and/or 2 parcels deep)
- Public who have previously commented on this proposal
- Public on shellfish interested parties list
- Private organizations
- Media
- Tribes
- Local Agencies
- County Agencies
- State Agencies
- Federal Agencies