

Joint Press Release:

April 22, 2025

Taylor Shellfish and Friends of Burley Lagoon Reach Agreement on Geoduck Cultivation Proposal

Friends of Burley Lagoon and Coalition to Protect Puget Sound Habitat (collectively, Friends of Burley Lagoon) have successfully executed a settlement agreement with Taylor Shellfish Company, marking the resolution of Friends of Burley Lagoon's challenge to Taylor Shellfish's proposal to cultivate geoduck clams in Burley Lagoon.

Shellfish have been farmed in Burley Lagoon for over 100 years. The farm is highly productive and is an important component of Taylor Shellfish's farming operations in South Puget Sound. Burley Lagoon is also home to a unique and critical environment. Our common goal is to balance its role as a productive shellfish farm with its importance as a habitat for numerous fish and wildlife species, and its surrounding residential and commercial uses.

Recognizing the shared goals of ensuring the lagoon's productivity for shellfish cultivation while protecting its sensitive habitats and facilitating diverse shoreline uses, both parties have worked collaboratively to achieve this resolution.

Key components of the settlement agreement include:

- **Resolution of Challenges:** Friends of Burley Lagoon has agreed to remove their challenges to Taylor Shellfish's geoduck cultivation proposal on specific portions of the farm.
- **Habitat Preservation:** Taylor Shellfish has committed to setting aside subtidal refugia habitats, protection of Olympia oyster beds, and supporting ecological diversity and conservation.
- **Collaboration and Coordination:** The agreement calls for increased communication and collaboration between Taylor Shellfish and shoreline residents, fostering a cooperative approach to managing the lagoon's resources and uses.

Both organizations are proud of the cooperative spirit that led to this resolution. By working together, they have laid the groundwork for a sustainable future that benefits the environment, the shellfish farming industry, and the local community alike. The parties look forward to continuing their partnership as stewards of Burley Lagoon, fostering a balance between environmental preservation, economic opportunity, and community well-being.

For further inquiries, please contact:

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