



HILARY S. FRANZ
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

SB 5410 | HB 1297

\$830k GF-S

The Geoduck Co-Management Task Force will include:

- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Ecology
- Department of Health
- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Puget Sound Partnership
- A representative of the academic community
- Equal representatives of Tribal entities

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Geoduck Co-Management Task Force

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources Geoduck Co-Management Task Force brings together Tribes and state agencies to identify opportunities to promote Tribal rights and improve geoduck harvest.

- **Elevates geoduck management** by convening Tribes and agencies;
- **Investigates stock enhancement** by assessing financial and environmental feasibility of stock intervention; and
- **Expands harvest opportunities** by identifying meaningful opportunities to remove barriers to classification.

Elevates geoduck management: DNR jointly manages the state's wild geoduck fisheries alongside the department of fish and wildlife and the Puget Sound Treaty Tribes. Geoduck auctions generate nearly \$22 million per year for the state, but poor water quality, including increased sediment load and urban runoff, impede Tribal Treaty rights and state revenue generation by contributing to the exclusion of miles of geoduck tract from harvest. A task force of co-managers designed to elevate known issues inhibiting harvest classification will improve both state and Tribal geoduck harvest.

Investigates stock enhancement: The financial and environmental cost to develop enhancement methods of wildstock geoduck has never been authoritatively reviewed. This task force will assess the feasibility of enhancement and present recommendations in a report to the legislature.

Expands harvest opportunities: Portions of Puget Sound are classified not suitable for geoduck harvest, often due to poor water quality caused largely by urban run-off, poorly placed wastewater outfalls, and improper sediment load. This task force will produce a report containing recommendations to improve the harvest quantity of wildstock geoduck, prioritizing areas which can attain improved classification most readily.

Why initiate the task force now?

- *Reaffirms commitment to upholding Tribal Treaty Rights to geoduck harvest*
- *Recognizes the value of geoduck and needs of geoduck management unique to other shellfish in Puget Sound*
- *Elevates geoduck-specific issues to state and Tribal governments*
- *Identifies opportunities for meaningful progress to expand geoduck harvest opportunities for future generations*

While a number of bodies in Washington consider recommendations specific to shellfish harvest, no geoduck-specific body exists to discuss the unique needs and issues relevant to this important and valuable resource. This co-management task force will provide an opportunity to elevate issues specific to geoduck co-management to state and Tribal governments, including enhancement and harvest expansion opportunities, to improve conditions for future generations and ensure the state is upholding Tribal Treaty Rights to geoduck harvest.