



**DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

**ENVIRONMENTAL & LEGAL AFFAIRS –  
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**MEMORANDUM**

January 17, 2024

File No. 24-011703

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Tracy Cooper, SEPA Center

SUBJECT: **SEPA LEAD AGENCY & DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE**

This is to advise you that pursuant to WAC 197-11-900 (922 through 948), the Department of Natural Resources has determined that it is Lead Agency for the following:

**DNR Geoduck Lease #20-096483 – Pickering Passage: This project is for the commercial production of shellfish on approximately 1.9 acres of intertidal land in Pickering Passage for geoduck production, mesh HDPE nursery tubes will be inserted into the substrate on approximately 15” centers. The tubes extend from the substrate approximately 9”, but can lay flat against the substrate. Four geoduck seeds are planted by hand in each tube. After the geoduck have matured for approximately 2 years, the tubes are removed and grow out continues for another 3-5 years. During this period, area net may be temporarily installed to protect crop from predation. Net is secured every 25’ with bent rebar inserted flush with the surrounding sediment. Net is removed once predation pressure has reduced and geoduck can avoid predators successfully. Harvest occurs when the geoducks reach marketable size (approximately 2 pounds). Harvest is done using a hydraulic wand inserted into the substrate directly adjacent to individual geoduck. The animals are gently removed from the substrate and placed in baskets for transport by boat to the processing plant in Shelton, WA. Located in Section 18, Township 21 North, Range 01 West, W.M., Mason County.**

Information about this proposal including the Threshold Determination and SEPA Checklist can be accessed through DNR’s website at:

**<https://www.dnr.wa.gov/current-aquatic-resources>**

Pursuant to WAC 332-41-504, this proposal was filed in the department’s SEPA Center at the Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, P.O. Box 47015, Olympia, Washington, on **January 17, 2024**. We will consider comments on this proposed DNS received by 4:30 p.m. on **January 31, 2024**. Comments should be submitted to the SEPA Center at, [sepacenter@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:sepacenter@dnr.wa.gov) or P.O. Box 47015, Olympia, Washington 98504-7015 for distribution to the responsible official. Please include the file number listed above on all comments.