



Maximizing geoduck harvests and revenue



FLEXIBILITY NEEDED TO ENSURE INDUSTRY, STATE MAXIMIZE REVENUE FROM GEODUCK HARVESTS

Each year, geoduck fishery closures due to paralytic shellfish poisoning, weather, oil spills and ship discharges require DNR to cancel harvest contracts and refund roughly \$500,000 to geoduck harvesters.

DNR is asking for the authority to sell harvest rights for open wild geoduck tracts to firms who have contracts on a tract that has been closed by the government. Because of the value of geoduck, this requires a change to RCW 79.140.050.

Authorizing DNR to sell geoduck at alternative open tracts during closures will increase revenue, reliably employ divers and maximize harvest efficiency.

Revenue from geoduck harvest contributes to the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account and the Resource Management Cost Account. Local, state and tribal agencies depend on these accounts to enhance public access and restore, protect and conserve habitat.

When the law was last updated, geoduck sold for less than \$1 per pound. At the current price of near \$8 per pound, geoduck contracts are valued at six figures, well beyond the \$10,000 cap on DNR's ability to directly sell the right to harvest a tract.

Allowing DNR to exceed \$10,000 direct sale cap would result in:

- a potential increase of \$500,000 or more in annual revenue ;
- continued sustainable management of the wildstock fishery;
- a stronger resource-based industry that provides reliable employment for harvesters.

Request: Revise RCW 79.140.050 to allow DNR to sell open tracts valued over \$10,000 to purchasers whose contracted tracts are closed.

Under current law, closures of wildstock geoduck tracts result in:

- refunds of hundreds of thousands of dollars from the state to harvesters;
- lost harvest revenue opportunity;
- a commercial geoduck industry left without work.

Contact:

BLAIN REEVES
Aquatic Resources
Asst. Division Manager
360.902.1731
blain.reeves@dnr.wa.gov