



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Seattle District

# Public Notice of Application for Permit

US Army Corps of Engineers  
Regulatory Branch  
4735 E. Marginal Way S., Bldg  
1202  
Seattle, WA 98134-2388  
Telephone: (206) 316-3078  
ATTN: Jonathan Smith,  
Project Manager

Public Notice Date: February 19, 2025  
Expiration Date: March 21, 2025

Reference No.: NWS-2025-133-AQ  
Name: Nahcotta Clam Company

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Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit in accordance with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, for certain work described below and shown on the enclosed drawings dated February 5, 2025. The Corps will also review the work in accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

APPLICANT: Nahcotta Clam Company  
Attention: Tony Crete  
27000 Sandridge Road  
Ocean Park, WA 98640-4551

AGENT: Confluence Environmental Company  
Attention: Marlene Meaders  
146 Canal St, Ste 111  
Seattle, WA 98103  
Telephone: (206) 724-5781

LOCATION: In Willapa Bay on tax parcel 12112755453 at Ocean Park, Pacific County, Washington.

WORK: Commercially cultivate and hand-harvest Manila clams on 2.44 acres of Willapa Bay between tidal elevations +1.0 and 0.0 feet (relative to mean lower low water) on Pacific County tax parcel 12112755453. Natural spawn Pacific oysters will be harvested by hand. on another 5.78 acres of the parcel between tidal elevations -1.0 and 0.0 feet. The site would be accessed both via the adjacent upland and boat.

Prior to planting, clam beds will be prepared by applying a thin layer of washed gravel mixed with shell fragments directly to the substrate (i.e., frosting). This activity will typically occur once every 2 to 4 years when the tide is high enough to float a barge or a skiff carrying the frosting material over the cultivation area. Material will be distributed evenly across the bed to a depth of

less than 0.5 inches. Several thin layers of material may be placed over a period of days. A single 0.5-inch layer requires about 70 cubic yards (CY) of washed gravel or shell per acre.

Hatchery-grown clams will be seeded by hand directly onto the beach substrate. Natural spawning and setting of clams will also occur. After seeding, predator exclusion nets may be used to cover the clam bed, with edges anchored using rebar or buried in the substrate. Nets would remain in place until harvest, which generally takes 2-3 years.

PURPOSE: Provide shellfish commercially cultivated in Willapa Bay for human consumption.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The proposed permit expiration date is December 31, 2036. Patchy non-native Japanese eelgrass is present on a portion of site. Shellfish cultivation was previously authorized on the site under permit NWS-2012-1238.

Copies of this public notice which have been mailed or otherwise physically distributed feature project drawings in black and white. The electronic version features those drawings in color, which we think more accurately communicates the scope of project impacts. To access the electronic version of this public notice, go to the Seattle District's web page at <http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/> and under the heading Open Public Comment Periods select Regulatory Public Notices. Recently-issued public notices are listed in chronological order of the date of issuance. Select and view the listing for this project.

The location of the line of mean high water/high tide line shown on the project drawings have not yet been verified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). If the Corps determines the boundaries of the waters are substantially inaccurate a new public notice may be published.

MITIGATION: None proposed.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA on all actions that may affect a species listed (or proposed for listing) under the ESA as threatened or endangered or any designated critical habitat.

After receipt of comments from this public notice, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will evaluate the potential impacts to proposed and/or listed species and their designated critical habitat. It appears that the proposed activities will comply with terms and conditions of the Programmatic Biological Opinions for Shellfish Activities in Washington State Inland Marine Waters (US Fish & Wildlife Service Reference Number 01EWF00-2016-F-0121), National Marine Fisheries Service Reference Number WCR-2014-1502).

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The Corps has reviewed the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data and other sources of information. There are no recorded historic properties within the permit area. The proposed work is of such a limited nature and extent that

little likelihood exists for the project to impinge upon an unrecorded historic property. The Corps evaluated the potential for cultural resource issues when reviewing previous permit applications for the site (e.g. NWS-2012-1238-AQ), and none were found.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

**EVALUATION:** The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Under separate public notice, the Washington Department of Ecology will evaluate the proposed project in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and for consistency with the Coastal Zone Management Act.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Native American Nations or tribal governments; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for the work. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the activity.

**COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD:** Conventional mail or e-mail comments on this public notice will be accepted and made part of the record and will be considered in determining whether authorizing the work would not be contrary to the public interest. In order to be accepted, e-mail comments must originate from the author's e-mail account and must include on the subject line of the e-mail message the permit applicant's name and reference number as shown below. All e-mail comments should be sent to Jonathan.Smith@usace.army.mil. Either conventional mail or e-mail comments must include the permit applicant's name and reference number, as shown below, and the commenter's name, address, and phone number. All comments received will become part of the administrative record and are subject to public release under the Freedom of Information Act including any personally identifiable information such as names, phone numbers, and addresses. All comments whether conventional mail or e-mail must reach this office, no later than the expiration date of this public notice to ensure

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consideration.

You may also now submit project specific comments to the Corps through the new Regulatory Request System (RRS) through this link: <https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs> ; Click Public Notices and filter to Washington State to see all current Seattle District Public Notices, including this notice. You may submit your comments directly through this portal.


Conventional mail comments should be sent to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch, Attention: Jonathan Smith, 4735 E. Marginal Way S, Bldg 1202, Seattle, Washington, 98134-2388.

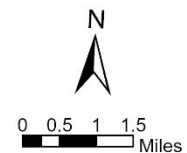
To ensure proper consideration of all comments, responders must include the following name and reference number in the text of their comments: Nahcotta Clam Company NWS-2025-133-AQ.

Encl: Figures (2)

**Nahcotta Clam Company:  
Vicinity Map**



 Project Parcel (No. 12112755453)



**CORPS REFERENCE:**  
formerly NWS-2012-1238

**APPLICANT:** Tony Crete

**SITE ADDRESS:**  
Ocean Park, WA 98640  
Near 26912 Sandridge Rd.

In: Willapa Bay  
County: Pacific  
State: WA

**PARCEL IDs/Owners:**  
12112755453/ Crete, Tony

**ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS (West to East):**  
See JARPA for adjacent property owners

**PROPOSED PROJECT:**  
Nahcotta Clam Company – Shellfish Farm  
Permitting

Tidal Datum: N/A  
Coordinate System: NAD83

Sheet 1 of 2  
Date: February 5, 2025

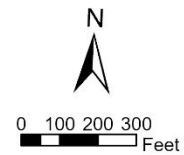


**Nahcotta Clam Company:  
Site Plan**



- Parcel Corners
- Adjacent Parcels
- ⊠ Natural Set Oysters\* (0 to -1 ft MLLW)
- ▭ Project Parcel
- ▨ Clam Culture Area\* (0 to +1 ft MLLW)

\* Total clam culture area is 2.44 acres. Total natural set oysters area is 5.78 acres.



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Sheet 2 of 2  
Date: February 5, 2025

**NWS-2025-133**