
Select Committee on Puget Sound

HB 2220

Brief Description: Regarding shellfish.

Sponsors: Representative Lantz.

Brief Summary of Bill

- States an intent to address the challenges inherent in managing and regulating shellfish aquaculture to begin a process of developing a consistent, predictable regulatory program.

Hearing Date: 2/27/07

Staff: Jason Callahan (786-7117).

Background:

Shorelines Management Act

Under the Shorelines Management Act, certain developments that occur on or near the shorelines of the state are required to be permitted. Permitting for most development is administered at the county level, with standards and requirements outlined in the county's master program. Each county with shorelines within its jurisdiction adopts its own master program, which is a comprehensive use plan for the area. Once a master program is approved by the Department of Ecology, the county is the entity responsible for final approval of all programs falling within the plan's scope.

If a development does not fall within the scope of an approved master plan, then the development may only go forward if a conditional use permit is approved. The conditional use permit is issued on the county level; however, it must be approved by the Department of Ecology prior to issuance.

Geoduck aquaculture on state-owned aquatic lands

The Legislature has assigned to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) the responsibility for managing the state's aquatic lands for the benefit of the public. The DNR manages over two

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million acres of tidelands, shorelands, and bedlands. This includes the beds of all navigable rivers and lakes, along with the beds below the Puget Sound.

The management of aquatic lands must support a balance of goals, including the encouragement of public access, the fostering of water-dependent uses, the utilization of renewable resources, and the generation of revenue. Revenues generated from the state's aquatic lands are generally directed to be used for public benefits, such as shoreline access, environmental protection, and recreational opportunities. Under current law, the DNR may lease aquatic lands, exchange state-owned aquatic lands for privately owned lands, and lease aquatic lands for shellfish aquaculture.

In 2003, the Legislature directed the DNR to conduct a study looking into the feasibility of leasing state-owned aquatic lands for geoduck aquaculture. The DNR has initiated a fledgling geoduck aquaculture program and has plans to lease 25 acres of state-owned aquatic lands per year for the next 10 years for geoduck aquaculture.

Summary of Bill:

An intent is stated for the Legislature to address the challenges inherent in managing and regulating shellfish aquaculture to begin a process of developing a consistent, predictable regulatory program that respects the role of local governments, protects the interests of the state, and operates within the scope of the federal government.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.