
SENATE BILL 6179

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senator Jacobsen; by request of Department of Natural Resources

Read first time 01/09/2006. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation.

1 AN ACT Relating to commercial geoduck harvesting; and amending RCW
2 77.60.070.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 77.60.070 and 2000 c 107 s 25 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The director may not authorize a person to take geoduck clams
7 for commercial purposes outside the harvest area designated in a
8 current department of natural resources geoduck harvesting agreement
9 issued under RCW ((79.96.080)) 79.135.210. The director may not
10 authorize commercial harvest of geoduck clams from bottoms that are
11 shallower than eighteen feet below mean lower low water (0.0. ft.)((~~7~~
12 ~~or that lie in an area bounded by the line of ordinary high tide (mean~~
13 ~~high tide) and~~)). Vessels conducting harvest operations must remain
14 seaward of a line two hundred yards seaward from and parallel to the
15 line of ordinary high tide. This section does not apply to the harvest
16 of private sector cultured aquatic products as defined in RCW
17 15.85.020.

18 (2) Commercial geoduck harvesting shall be done with a hand-held,
19 manually operated water jet or suction device guided and controlled

1 from under water by a diver. Periodically, the director shall
2 determine the effect of each type or unit of gear upon the geoduck
3 population or the substrate they inhabit. The director may require
4 modification of the gear or stop its use if it is being operated in a
5 wasteful or destructive manner or if its operation may cause permanent
6 damage to the bottom or adjacent shellfish populations.

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